



All In - Week 4

Message Discussion Questions

Introduction:

This week Chance continues our message series called "All In". Have you ever been so invested, excited, hyper focused, fully committed to something that all you can do is think about it? Isn't that what it means to be all in?

This week is Part 4, as we continue this series by looking at what it means to be "All In". What does Prayer mean to us? What purpose does it serve, and do we see Prayer as a chore and checklist, or something way more important? And, as a follower of Jesus, can we learn anything from Jesus, and if so, what did He model for us?

Questions:

1. As followers of Jesus, being All In is growing and being changed from the inside out, becoming more like Jesus. With this in mind, prior to moving forward with this week's focus, what has God shown you through the previous three weeks of this series? Knowing God has a unique plan and purpose for your life, to bring glory to Him and build up the Body of Christ (the church), has He been prompting you to do, or not do, or to change? If so, how so?
2. Chance shared when he gets upset he shuts down and doesn't talk. However, he's also learned this isn't what's best. Open dialogue and communication is best. As you think of your own life, does this example resonate, or do you have another "go to" other than shutting down? If so, share about this and what you're learning.
3. Speaking of the focus on Prayer, what three things did we learn that Prayer is not? Based on various backgrounds any of us might have, were any or all of these new to you? If so, which one(s)?

4. Conversely, what three things did we learn that Prayer is? What were the three words associated with each principle that we learned that Prayer is? (Hint: Intimacy: Aligning our hearts with God's; Humility: Acknowledging our ways are not His ways; Selflessness: Compassion and care for others above ourselves); Have you thought about this in your own life, as your focus for Prayer?
5. After Jesus confirmed with His disciples who He is, he also said the disciples would leave Him. At this point, what did Jesus do? And, based on what He did, how did He do it?
1. Jesus' prayers were FOCUSED (READ John 17:1-5 and John 17:6-8) Similar to Jesus' prayer in John 11, what key Truths do we learn through these examples?
2. Jesus' prayers were FERVENT (READ John 17:9-12) Who is Jesus' praying for specifically, and what is He praying for? (READ John 17:13-19) Again who is Jesus' focus of prayer, and what is He praying for?
3. Jesus' prayers were FREQUENT (READ John 17:20-21) How many times did Jesus say Jesus' prayers and this does not include the times He was giving thanks (READ John 17:22-24) Once again, who was He praying for specifically and what was the purpose for His prayer in these passages? What ultimately does our Unity of Believers do?
6. What do we learn about Jesus and how He prayed? (Hint: He prayed and thanked God regardless of His circumstances). As followers of Jesus, what then does that mean for us? Do we see this in our own lives, or if we're completely honest, what does our lifestyle of prayer look like? Which of the three aspects of prayer do you struggle with the most? (Focused, Fervent, Frequent)
7. When we read these passages and get to know Jesus' heart better and His love for us, His prayer for us to be in unity and as one as followers with Him, does this change the way we look at prayer? If we tend to see prayer as an obligation, or a chore, or use prayer as a checklist to let God know what we want or need, has seeing Jesus' prayer and His heart motivations changed our perspective at all? If so, how so?
8. As you take some time to reflect on the past four weeks of this message series, how do you see Prayer fit into all we've been learning about being All In? God calls us to action. What is He showing you? Remember, He's not only the Creator of the entire Universe, but He's also a personal God and closer than your very breath (READ Psalm 139). He's your biggest advocate and biggest cheerleader for you to live the life He's created you to live...IN HIM! Are you All In?