

THE ROCK COMMUNITY CHURCH

1 Samuel 20

“Waiting For Answers”

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17:14

Well, I have a question for you. Do you ever have trouble understanding God's timing? Do you ever have trouble understanding God's timing? And when your life takes an unexpected and unpleasant turn, do you ever struggle to understand why God allows painful, stressful, and seemingly unfair things to happen?

17:48

To be human is to wrestle with these kind of questions and our passage today has some answers for us. Will you pray with me please? Father, oh we love you. Thank you for the wonderful music this morning.

18:01

Just spoke to my heart. And Lord, we're coming before you because we have questions that only you can answer. Thank you that your word speaks your truth into our lives. May we listen closely to everything you have to say to us with open hearts this morning.

18:22

And we ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen. Our passage is first Samuel chapter 20. It's going to be on page 295 if you want to use the Bible in the seat in front of you. In chapter 18, if you'll remember, King Saul made a series of plans that he hoped would get David killed by the Philistines and all of his plans failed.

18:51

So in chapter 19, Saul threw his spear at David again, missed again. David fled. Saul sent people to David's house to capture him and bring him back so Saul could kill him. But David's new bride, Michal, who was also Saul's daughter, helped David escape.

19:11

And David went to Ramah, remember, to the prophet Samuel to tell him what Saul had done. And Saul found out where David was. So Saul sent three different groups of men to capture him, but they failed.

19:23

So Saul went himself, and he couldn't get near David either. Do you remember why? You remember why? They were all overpowered. I would love to see this. They were all overpowered by the Holy Spirit, so all they could do is prophesy.

19:39

They could just proclaim the words of God, and none of them could carry out their murderous mission. So chapter 19 ended with Saul in a kind of a trance-like state, prophesying his heart out all day, all night, with no clothes on.

20:00

I don't want to see that. And now we come to chapter 20, and it's really good, and it's long. It's 42 verses. So we're going to read it all together now, thoroughly enjoy it together now, and then when we come back to study it, we'll just look at a few passages.

20:18

But I want to just share it with you for a moment. This is such a special place in God's Word for me, because this is the first story I remember learning about in Sunday school when I was a little boy about maybe eight or nine years old.

20:36

So very special place. Let's read 1 Samuel chapter 20. So let's savor every word. There's a lot of words, but they're good. Then David fled from Naioth and Ramah and came and said before Jonathan, what have I done?

20:52

What is my guilt, and what is it my sin before your father that he seeks my life? And Jonathan said to him, Far from it, you shall not die. Behold, my father does nothing, either great or small, without disclosing it to me.

21:06

And why should my father hide this from me? It is not so. But David vowed again saying, Your father knows well that I have found favor in your eyes. And he thinks, do not let Jonathan know this lest he be grieved.

21:19

But truly as the Lord lives and your soul is, there is but a step between me and death. Then Jonathan said to David, whatever you say, I will do for you. David said to Jonathan, behold, tomorrow is the new moon and I should not fail to set a table with the king.

21:36

But let me go that I may hide myself in the field till the third day at evening. If your father misses me at all, then say, David earnestly asked leave of me to run to Bethlehem, his city, for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the clan.

21:50

If he says good, it will mean well, it will be well with your servant. But if he is angry, then no. That harm is determined by him. Therefore, deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the Lord with you.

22:06

But if there is guilt in me, kill me yourself, for why should you bring me to your father? And Jonathan said, Far be it from you. If I knew that it was determined by my father that harm should come to you, would I not tell you?

22:21

Then David said to Jonathan, Who will tell me if your father answers you roughly? And Jonathan said to David, Come, let us go into the field. And they both went into the field. And Jonathan said to David, The Lord, the God of Israel, be witness.

22:38

When I have sounded out my father, about this time tomorrow, or the third day, behold, if he is well disposed toward David, shall I not then send and disclose it to you? But should it please my father to do you harm, the Lord do so to Jonathan, and more also if I do not disclose it to you, and send you away, that you may go in safety.

22:59

May the Lord be with you as he has been with my father. If I am alive, show me the steadfast love of the Lord, that I may not die. And do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever, when the Lord cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.

23:15

And Jonathan made a vow, made a covenant with the house of David, saying, May the Lord take vengeance on David's enemies. And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

23:29

Then Jonathan said to him, Tomorrow is the new moon, and you will be missed because your seat will be empty. On the third day, go down quickly to the place where you hid yourself when the matter was at hand, and remain beside the stone heap.

23:42

And I will shoot three arrows to the side of it as though I shot at a mark. And behold, I will send the boy saying, Go find the arrows. If I say to the boy, Look, the arrows are on this side. Take them.

23:53

Then you are to come for as the Lord lives. It is safe. for you, and there is no danger. But if I say to the youth, look, the arrows are beyond you, then go, for the Lord has sent you away. And as for the matter which you and I have spoken behold, the Lord is between you and me forever.

24:14

So David hid himself in the field, and when the new moon came, the king sat down to eat food. The king sat on his seat, as at other times, on the seat by the wall. Jonathan sat opposite, and Abner sat by Saul's side.

24:29

But David's place was empty. Yet Saul did not say anything that day, for he thought, something has happened to him. He is not clean, surely. He is not clean. But on the second day, the day after the new moon, David's place was empty.

24:43

And Saul said to Jonathan, his son, why has not the son of Jesse come to the meal either yesterday or today? Jonathan answered Saul. David earnestly asked to leave of me to go to Bethlehem. He said, let me go for our clan holds a sacrifice in the city and my brother has commanded me to be there.

25:01

So now if I have found favor in your eyes, let me get away and see my brothers. For this reason he has not come to the king's table. Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan. And he said to him, you son of a perverse rebellious woman, do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness?

25:20

For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, neither you nor your kingdom shall be established. Therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die. Then Jonathan answered Saul his father, why should he be put to death?

25:33

What has he done? But Saul hurled his spear at him to strike him. So Jonathan knew that his father was determined to put David to death. And Jonathan rose from the table in fierce anger and ate no food the second day of the month, for he was grieved for David because his father had disgraced him.

25:50

In the morning, Jonathan went out into the field to the appointment with David and with him a little boy. And he said to his boy, run and find the arrows that I shoot. As the boy ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.

26:05

And when the boy came to the place of the arrow that Jonathan had shot, Jonathan called after the boy and said, is not the arrow beyond you? And Jonathan called after the boy, hurry, be quick, do not stay.

26:17

So Jonathan's boy gathered up the arrows and came to his master, but the boy knew nothing. Only Jonathan and David knew the matter. And Jonathan gave his weapons to the boy and said to him, carry, go and carry them to the city.

26:31

And as soon as the boy had gone, David rose from beside the stone heap and fell on his face to the ground and bowed three times. And they kissed one another and wept with one another, David weeping the most.

26:43

Then Jonathan said to David, go in peace because we have sworn both of us in the name of the Lord saying the Lord shall be between me and you and between my offspring and your offspring forever. And David rose and departed and Jonathan went to the city.

27:04

So while Saul was under the control of the Holy Spirit in Naioth in Ramah, David had time to go back to Gibeah to get some answers from Saul's son Jonathan, who we know is David's best friend, and David asked him, what in the world have I done wrong?

27:26

What sin have I committed against your father that he wants me dead? Jonathan was surprised by the question and he said, David, you've done nothing wrong. You have nothing to fear from my father. Let's remember back in chapter 19 last week, Saul did tell Jonathan and all his servants that he wanted to kill David and Jonathan went straight to David to warn him.

27:51

David, go hide in the field. And I'm going to go talk with my father on your behalf. Remember, in Chapter 19, Saul listened to Jonathan and Saul swore an oath. He said, as the Lord lives, David shall not be put to death.

28:09

Jonathan took his father at his word, and he told David he was safe to come back and serve his father, which David did. And when David came back, Saul tried to kill him with a spear again and then made four more attempts on his life, but Jonathan didn't know about any of that.

28:25

So here in Chapter 20, when David asked Jonathan why Saul was trying to kill him, Jonathan was shocked, and he answered with what he thought was the truth. He said, look, David, come on, my father tells me everything.

28:38

So if he wanted to kill you, I would know. And I'm telling you, you're not in any danger. So then David said, Jonathan, wait, your father knows all about our friendship. So he's not telling you anything about his plans for me anymore.

28:58

But as sure as God is alive and you are alive, I've barely escaped with my life in the last 24 hours, and your father will not stop coming for me until I'm dead. Then Jonathan said the most wonderful thing.

29:18

He said, whatever you say, I will do for you. Whatever you say, David, I will do for you. Now, you know, I was thinking Jonathan could have said, David, where's your faith? Why aren't you entrusting God?

29:35

But Jonathan could see how upset David was. And David was Jonathan's best friend. So he said, tell me how to help and whatever it is, I'll do it. It reminds me of a quote someone said. I'm sure you've heard it.

29:50

But this is the quote, a good friend will come bail you out of jail, but a best friend will be sitting next to you in jail. Heard that? That's Jonathan and David. Jonathan didn't know if David was right about his father or not, but Jonathan just said, David, I'll do anything.

30:09

Tell me what to do to help. So David had an idea. He said, let's look at verse 5 of chapter 20. David said to Jonathan, behold, tomorrow is the new moon and I should not fail to sit at table with the king, but let me go that I might hide myself in the field till the third day at evening.

30:27

So the new moon is Rosh Chodesh. It's observed on the first day of the lunar month on the Hebrew calendar. The law of Moses commanded that there be special burnt offerings for the new moon, and then afterwards people would often gather for social or family meals together.

30:44

The holiday would last one or two days each month. David was Saul's son-in-law, so he would be absolutely expected to celebrate the new moon with Saul. But David said, if your father misses me at the banquet, here's what I'd like you to tell him.

31:03

Tell him that you gave me permission to go to Bethlehem to make the new moon sacrifice with my family. Now, if your dad is cool with that, then I'm wrong. He doesn't want to hurt me. But if he freaks out, then you will know your dad wants me dead.

31:20

Then David said this amazing thing. He said, Jonathan, you made a bond of friendship with me in the name of the Lord. So I'm asking for your loyalty and your protection, but if you think I'm guilty of any sin against the king, I'd rather you kill me instead of betray me to your father and he kills me.

31:43

And then Jonathan said, David, no way. In their passage, there's a lot of exclamation points from Jonathan. He said, no way, I see no guilt in you at all. And come on, come on, you know I would tell you if I thought you were in any danger, right?

32:00

I mean, this was a, the emotions were running high between these two friends. Let's look at verse 10. And then David said to Jonathan, who will tell me if your father answers you roughly? So to paraphrase verse 10, kind of in contemporary language, we'd understand, David said, Jonathan, I'm not gonna get good cell service in that field, so how will I know if the king is angry or not?

32:29

And Jonathan suggested they go to the field together and work out the communication details of their plan. And once they got out there, the first thing Jonathan did was promise in the name of the Lord that he would find out for sure what his father was thinking and planning.

32:45

And then Jonathan vowed that he would make sure David was safe, that was his highest priority. David, I'm gonna make sure you're safe. You're either gonna be safe to come home, or I'm going to tell you that I have to send you away to safety. And then, after that, Jonathan started speaking to David, not only as his best friend, but David started talking to him as the next king of Israel.

33:06

Let's look at verses 14 and 15 together. It's an amazing thing for Jonathan to say. Now all of a sudden he goes, if I'm still alive, show me the steadfast love of the Lord that I may not die, and do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever when the Lord cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.

33:28

Standing out in that field, things looked really bad at that moment, but Jonathan was not just thinking about the field. He was looking to the future when David would be crowned as king, and he was also looking forward to the day when David would become the godly king that his father used to be, but now was no longer.

33:51

And Jonathan said, David, if I'm still alive to see you crowned as king, please spare my life and the life of my family and my future descendants. In ancient times, when one royal family was replaced by another royal family, it was common for the new family to kill most, if not all, of the previous family to get rid of that bloodline and remove any future threat to the throne.

34:18

So years later, years later, when David finally did become king, Jonathan had already died in battle, but Jonathan had a son that David not only spared, but David loved and treated Jonathan's son like his own son.

34:36

We'll see that when we get to 2nd Samuel. It's interesting, in verse 15, you see that Jonathan knew, he knew that God would destroy all of David's enemies. So if Saul proved to be one of those enemies, Jonathan knew that God would destroy his father, too.

34:54

In fact, it's not on the screen, but in the next verse, in verse 16, Jonathan even prays, may the Lord take vengeance on David's enemies, even if that included his father. And Jonathan, I love this, he came up with this really clever way for him to communicate with David while David was in hiding.

35:13

He said, look, here's what I'll do. I'm going to return to the field on the third day and I'll have a little servant boy with me, and it's going to look like I'm just coming out here to get in some archery practice.

35:22

Nobody's going to even question that. And then I'm going to shoot three arrows. I'm going to shoot to that side of rocks, those mound of rocks, as if I'm aiming at a target. And I'm going to tell the servant boy to go find my arrows.

35:35

And my commands to the servant will be a secret code that only you and I know. If Jonathan tells the servant to look for the arrows in front of the pile of rocks on this side, it means David, you can come out, you're safe, you can come home.

35:49

It's all good. But if Jonathan tells the servant to look beyond the rocks it means David's life is in serious danger and the Lord our passage tells us the Lord wants him to go away to safety. So after they worked out all their planning Jonathan went home, but David he could not go home That field was his home for the next three days, Okay, David was a former shepherd.

36:23

He spent many days and nights in a field. But not under these kind of dangerous circumstances. Let's think about this for a moment ,you might already be thinking about it. When God chose David to be the next king of Israel and Samuel anointed him, do you think David ever imagined this

36:50

is where he'd end up? Hiding in a field from a crazy king that wanted to kill him on sight. When David defeated Goliath, hero became the hero of all Israel, married the princess. Did he think he would soon be hiding behind a pile of rocks, waiting for a life or death answer from God?

37:19

Sometimes God leads us into a field. God leads us into a place where we never expected to be. And we have to wait on the Lord to see what comes next. Waiting, probably not our best thing, is it? Waiting, it's hard for us because we can't help it.

37:43

We want answers, we want solutions sooner rather than later. There's nothing wrong with that at all, as long as we remember God does not operate on our schedule. If we expect the Lord to meet our deadlines or do things in the way we imagine they should be done, what we're doing is we're setting ourselves up for a lot of unnecessary frustration and disappointment.

38:15

Let's look at something David wrote in Psalm 18:30. These are David's words, Psalm 18:30. He wrote, this God, His way is perfect. The word of the Lord proves true. He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him.

38:34

God's way, God's plan is perfect in every detail. God makes no mistakes with the things that He allows into your life and my life. Do you and I believe this is true, that His way is perfect? Do we believe that?

38:56

If we do, it means we can trust whatever God does whenever God does it. We can trust whatever God does whenever God does it. As followers of Jesus, whether we're waiting for answers in a field, in a doctor's office, or in our bed at night, wherever we are, God is our shield.

39:26

That means the Lord is in full control over everything that happens in every second of time. When we understand this, we can find peace and even joy in our times of waiting and difficulty. And that's the blessing that comes when we

39:50

look for security not in our circumstances but in our God. Let's take a moment because this is really great. Let's look at just a few of the other things David learned about trusting in the Lord through his times of drama and trauma.

40:07

These will come up rather quickly, but I just want to make a couple of comments and we'll go on. Psalm 9:9, look at this. He wrote, the Lord is a stronghold, a stronghold in times of trouble. A stronghold means a fortress, the safest place to be.

40:23

Message is clear, being with the Lord is the safest place you could possibly be in times of trouble. Psalm 34:19, many, many are the afflictions, the troubles, the suffering, the hardships of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him and her out of them all.

40:47

Psalm 55:22, cast your burden on the Lord and he will sustain you. Comfort and strength comes when we keep our eyes on God instead of our circumstances. Psalm 23:4, even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for you are with me.

41:12

Your rod and your staff, they comfort me. A rod and staff were very familiar shepherd tools to David. The rod was used to guard the flock against wild animals, so that's a symbol of God's protection.

41:26

The staff though was meant to just gently guide the flock for the staff of the Lord represents his kindness, his loving kindness in his direction. Psalm 34:4, last one we'll look at. I sought the Lord and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

41:48

Our fears can hold us captive. Right? Our fears can hold us captive, but the power of God is what can set us free. David was not alone in that field because the Lord was with him, just as the Lord is with us in our fields of fear and our fields of waiting.

42:10

Let's go back to our passage, verse 24 of 1st Samuel 20. So David hid himself in the field, and when the new moon came, the king sat down to eat food. When everyone gathered around Saul's banquet table, Saul sat in his usual seat of honor.

42:26

Jonathan sat across from him, and then Abner sat to the side of Saul. Abner was Saul's cousin, and Abner was the commander over the entire army. David's place, of course, was empty because he was hiding in the field.

42:40

Saul didn't say anything about David not being there that night because Saul thought, the Bible tells us that he thought, okay David must have done something to become ritually unclean, so law of Moses demands he cannot come to the table.

42:55

So that's fine. He wasn't worried about it. And ceremonial uncleanness typically lasted one day. Let's look at verse 27. But on the second day, the day after the new moon, David's place was empty again.

43:08

And Saul said to Jonathan his son, "Why has not the son of Jesse come to the meal either yesterday or today? Notice, Saul did not even acknowledge David as his son-in-law, nor did he even call him by name.

43:27

He just said where is the son of Jesse? Well, Jonathan did the story. He said, no, I gave him permission to be with his family on the new moon. They're in Bethlehem. How did Saul feel about that?

43:44

We read it, let's read it again. Verses 30-31. This, fathers, this is not the way to talk to your children. Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said to him, you son of a perverse, rebellious woman. Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness?

44:03

For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die. Huh, well, that ugly thing Saul said to his son was a vile way to curse Jonathan, but not really curse Jonathan's mother.

44:28

Calling him a son of a perverse, rebellious woman, and I need to clean this up a little bit, it was like calling him the illegitimate son of a prostitute. And in Saul's kind of confusing rant, he also seemed to say by choosing to side with David Saul.

44:44

I mean, Jonathan not only brought shame on himself, but he brought shame on the mother that birthed him. And then Saul was, you can see how his temper rising, and he said, don't you realize, kid, you're never going to get to be king yourself as long as David's alive, so bring him to me.

45:01

I'll make sure he's dead. Let's look at verse 32 and 33. Then Jonathan answered Saul his father and said, why should he be put to death? What has he done? But Saul hurled his spear at him to strike him, so Jonathan knew that his father was determined to put David to death.

45:24

Okay, we can imagine Jonathan probably had some heat in his voice when he defended his friend, and then Saul responded in his typical way. He hurled a spear at Jonathan. Apparently Saul always had a spear nearby.

45:43

You would think. You would think somebody in the castle would take the sharp objects away from the king. And think about this, just a few seconds ago, Saul accused David of being the biggest threat to Jonathan's throne, right?

46:00

And now he just tried to kill his own son, so who's the real threat? Jonathan had all the terrible confirmation he needed that David was right, his father had lied to him, his father wanted David dead.

46:17

So now we come to this really, this hurts my stomach, verse 35. Do you ever have to get up in the morning for something you don't want to do? You ever do that? You wake up and it's the morning, if you've got to do something you really don't want to do, put yourself here in verse 35.

46:32

In the morning Jonathan went out into that field to the appointment with David and with him a little boy. How do you think Jonathan must have felt when he walked into that field in the morning? When he and David made this plan just a couple of days before, you

know he had to be hoping David was wrong and he would be coming back with good news, David you can come home, it's okay.

47:00

But now he was coming to send his dearest friend in the whole world away for as long as his father was alive. In fact, David and Jonathan would only see each other one more time before Jonathan's death.

47:21

Jonathan told the servant boy to go find the arrows that he shot toward the rocks where David was hiding. Let's look at verse 37. And when the boy came to the place of the arrow that Jonathan had shot, Jonathan called after the boy and said, is not the arrow beyond you?

47:38

Beyond. That was the code word that told David Saul wanted him dead and David would have to leave the city, leave the country. When Jonathan shouted that word beyond and David heard it, I bet you both of those men felt like an arrow had just pierced their heart.

48:04

Then Jonathan kind of went off script and he embellished his command. Look at verse 38, Jonathan called after the boy, hurry, be quick, do not stay. So Jonathan's boy gathered up the arrows and came to his master.

48:19

Let's try to picture this. That little servant boy, he thought just he and Jonathan were the only two people in that field, right? So when his master, the crown prince of Israel started shouting at him, hurry, be quick, do not stay.

48:38

He had to really scare that poor kid. I bet he gathered those arrows faster than anyone ever has in the history of archery. Of course, Jonathan wasn't shouting at the boy. He was shouting to David. He wanted David to know there was no time to waste.

48:57

He had to run for his life right now. Then Jonathan sent the servant boy back to Gibeah. Let's look at verse 41. As soon as the boy had gone, David rose from beside the stone heap and fell on his face to the ground and bowed three times.

49:16

Then they kissed one another and wept with one another, David weeping the most. David fell on his face to the ground and he bowed three times. That's what a servant does before their master. David humbled himself before Jonathan and he showed he was indebted to his friend forever.

49:40

These two dear friends had hoped to have a lifetime together, but now that dream was shattered and they both wept. David cried the hardest because David had the most to lose, didn't he? He could not go home to his bride.

50:00

He could not go back to his men in the army. He could not return to the royal court with Jonathan. He could not even go home to his father's house in Bethlehem because King Saul would have his people looking for David everywhere.

50:18

From that day on, David would be on the run from Saul for about seven years, but the biblical timeline's a little fuzzy, so it could have been much longer than that, but seven years on the run. Let's look at our last verse, verse 42.

50:35

Then Jonathan said to David, remember they're crying when they're saying this, go in peace. Because we have sworn both of us in the name of the Lord saying the Lord shall be between me and you and between my offspring and your offspring forever. And he, David, rose and departed turned and walked away. And Jonathan turned and went back into the city.

50:59

Their last words to each other were words to affirm their everlasting friendship and their trust in the Lord as they said their painful goodbyes. Then Jonathan went home to Gibeah and David was persona non grata.

51:17

He was an unwelcome man in the kingdom of Israel that he loved with all his heart. So back to our original question, why did God allow this painful, stressful, unfair thing to happen to David? The answer comes from David's own words.

51:40

Let's look at Psalm 18:30 one more time. I think even I can memorize this. This God is way is perfect. His way is perfect. Perfect means without any flaw of any kind. We make plenty of mistakes, but God never makes a mistake.

52:09

His plan for David's life, just like God's plan for your life and God's plan for my life, is right and trustworthy. Even when painful, stressful, and unfair things happen. God's plan for David was surely to give him the throne of Israel, but probably not in the way and time frame David expected.

52:37

God's plan for you and me is seldom what we expect either, have you noticed? His perfect plans includes times when we're waiting for Him to answer our prayers, and that's when we need to learn that wait is an answer from God.

52:59

We also need to learn God is in complete control of every twist and turn in our life. The smooth turns and the sharp ones, the fun twists and the painful ones are all for our good. They are all for our good, even when it certainly doesn't feel like it at the time.

53:24

We have a tremendous advantage that David did not have. We have David's, the story of David's journey to guide us on our journey. This morning I tried to cover as many details of this story as I could so we can all see that God is in control

53:41

of all the details of our story too. God is sovereign over all our days and over all our plans. God is in complete control of the good things and the bad things that happen. God is working for our good when people say and do mean things to us.

53:57

That's why we always need to keep our eyes on Him and trust in Him and not on our circumstances. Our passage today, I'll close with this. Our passage today gives us a picture of the wonderful, wonderful reality you and I have in Christ.

54:17

Here's this reality, I'll sum it up like this. We do not know what today and tomorrow will bring, but we know who is in charge of today and tomorrow and we can rest and we can trust Him no matter what.

54:38

No matter what. Our prayer team will be down here to pray with you at the end of the service. We also have a prayer wall. If you'd like to go out the door to your right, you can leave us a prayer request.

54:51

Would you pray with me, please? Father, we thank You for Your love for us. I'm just thinking, Lord, we're going to need all of eternity to explore the depths of Your love and we'll never, ever, ever get to the bottom of it.

55:08

We thank You for Your plan for our lives. Your plan is unique for each one of us. It's flawless for each one of us. And Lord, we confess, we often don't understand what You're doing, but help us to keep learning how to trust You.

55:27

Thank You for being our fortress, the safest place to be, especially when we're stressed and we're scared. Lord, we need You. Oh, how we need You. It's in the name of Jesus, we pray, and we live. Amen.