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BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELKHORN, NEBRASKA  
JANUARY 21, 2007  
PASTOR WENDA FRY

1 PASTOR FRY: We have started a new worship series for  
2 the beginning of the new year called "Bethany, a place for  
3 you, a place for family, a place for friends, and a place for  
4 you," concentrating on reaching out to other people and  
5 giving the gift of life-saving friendships.

6 And last week I didn't put the slide up because I  
7 wanted to try to work it out with you when I talked about our  
8 core values as a family of faith here at Bethany.

9 But if you are a family, a family of origin, or the  
10 family you grew up in, or the family you are raising right  
11 now, perhaps you had some values that you held dear as a  
12 family.

13 And we do here at Bethany as well, and they spell  
14 the word fragrant.

15 And we are talking in this first worship series of  
16 the new year, talking about the Rs.

17 The relating to God and others and the reaching  
18 beyond ourselves.

19 Then I introduced you to Scott and Lesley and their  
20 group and the new friends that they are gathering with

21 And this is a picture of them down at Pastor Helen  
22 King's church in north Omaha.

23 That reminds me, they were robbed this past week and  
24 some of the computers that we gave to them were stolen and  
25 some other things out of the office.

1           They were on the Fox 42 news last night at 9:00  
2 o'clock and Helen, I talked to her yesterday, she said they  
3 were in need of a carpenter.

4           So if there is anyone that would be able to help  
5 them fix up some of the doors that were broken into, that  
6 would really be helpful, just speak to me after the service  
7 today.

8           But, anyway, last week I introduced you to Scott and  
9 Lesley and they talked about the fact that they try to live a  
10 balanced life between worship of God, relating to God,  
11 relating to Christians, to friends that are called by the  
12 name of Christ.

13           And then spending time volunteering in the world,  
14 going out.

15           And that's why we have the triangle hanging in our  
16 worship center.

17           It's not a symbol for the Trinity; it's a symbol for  
18 leading a three-dimensional life, a balanced life.

19           And it's an equilateral triangle to remind us as his  
20 disciples that it's important to balance our lives between  
21 worship of God, friendship with others, and time in the  
22 world.

23           This group is not the only one that is trying to  
24 lead a balanced life.

25           There are two or three other groups that are

1 beginning at Bethany that just kind of rise up and lead this  
2 life of a balanced life, a three-dimensional life.

3 I want to invite Chris and Kristi to come up and any  
4 of their group that wants to join them.

5 They are also struggling to do this and I want to  
6 say to you that, and you know this about me by now, and about  
7 Mark as well, we can talk, of course, but we want you to hear  
8 from your fellow disciples how it is that they are taking the  
9 word into their hearts and trying to do what they're trying  
10 to do.

11 Last week Kristi sent me, from Chris and Kristi,  
12 this was a prayer request, she asked me if I would be  
13 praying.

14 They had a gathering last night and I'm just going  
15 to read you this.

16 Pretty much these guys wrote the sermon for this  
17 week, because I was amazed at this prayer request.

18 "Would you please pray for courage to allow God to  
19 take them," meaning the people that we are inviting into our  
20 home, "take them by the hand and move them out of their  
21 comfort zone, begin to share their life with one another, and  
22 may it be received compassionately by the other disciples."

23 That is when they gather and share life, will there  
24 be compassion.

25 "Communicate our lives and learn to be encouraging

1 and accountable to each other, trusting each other and  
2 sharing that, camaraderie, and respect for the babysitters  
3 with the children, may they all be safe and have fun and be  
4 friends and for the leaders to just be and allow the Spirit  
5 to be alive within us."

6 I'm thankful that they are asking us to pray about  
7 these things, and the kids are up there, too, because they  
8 come to life group, I think that's what you guys call it, and  
9 so how is it going?

10 You have been doing this for about a year. We heard  
11 from Scott and Lesley last week.

12 KRISTI: We started about a year ago with about ten  
13 people who were willing to try something new and get together  
14 and be with one another and talk about their stories and talk  
15 about what God is doing in their life and to ask God to enter  
16 into their lives and be a part of that.

17 And through this past year we have a gathering now,  
18 and the reason for the prayer was pretty much the last few  
19 times that we have been meeting we are continually finding  
20 ourselves out of the boat and vulnerable, and, God, what are  
21 you doing? We have never done this before.

22 And we gathered last night with about twenty adults  
23 and twenty-five children, and so the children were at two  
24 houses and the adults gathered and we had dinner together.

25 We then talk with one another about what is going on

1 in our lives. We pray together.

2 It's been kind of neat to reflect on this past year,  
3 because when we first started people were like I don't pray,  
4 and I don't pray out loud

5 And now people pray, and people would for sure pray  
6 out loud for any of the people there that night that are in  
7 need of prayer.

8 So we have just grown together. We have been able  
9 to come together as a group and pray where God is leading us  
10 to serve others.

11 And we have had that joy in serving that I don't  
12 think any of us had really truly experienced in a small group  
13 before and we can't wait to see where God is leading us as a  
14 group to go and serve.

15 PASTOR FRY: Does anybody else want to speak to  
16 that? Andrew?

17 ANDREW: I think it's really been going great. We  
18 have been involved in some other small groups before and this  
19 has just been something completely different.

20 I was sharing to the group last night that it's just  
21 something that is so comfortable to go to.

22 It's like a family gathering, or a group of your  
23 really close friends, and that's something that we missed out  
24 on before.

25 One of the things that I've really been learning

1 from this group and in talking to everybody is that I think  
2 so many of us don't have the real deep friendships that we  
3 really need.

4 That so many of the friends we hang out with, we  
5 talk about the football game last weekend, but we don't talk  
6 about what is really going on in your life, what are your  
7 concerns right now.

8 And this is a group that we get together, and as we  
9 are having dinner, as we're talking afterwards, those are the  
10 things that we are really intentional about, getting beyond  
11 the surface level and talking about that stuff and really  
12 deepening our relationship and serving each other and it has  
13 been tremendous.

14 I'll really excited about going forward with it,  
15 wherever it takes us.

16 PASTOR FRY: Thank you so much. Would you take a  
17 minute and encourage them in their faith walk? Thank you so  
18 much for coming up.

19 (Applause)

20 When Kristi says that part about I don't pray, or I  
21 don't know enough about the Bible, or just that nervousness,  
22 that's the difference in what is happening in the lives of  
23 some of these people that are just having people in their  
24 homes.

25 It's starting with eating, and who doesn't like to

1 eat?

2 We all love to eat, so that is really where it  
3 starts. It's starts with that.

4 Eating and drinking together and then talking about  
5 what God is doing in their life

6 And then so that you don't get out of balance,  
7 that's why the three-dimensional life is so important.

8 Remember, we have worship. Then we spend time  
9 talking about what God is doing in our life and praying with  
10 other Christians.

11 But then going out to the world and just simply  
12 taking the risk that it is.

13 And it's not easy, as Scott and Lesley testified  
14 last week, sometimes it gets a little messy, because doing  
15 life together deeply, it gets messy.

16 And the enemy wants us to not do life together. The  
17 enemy wants us to come as Christians, sit in the pew, and  
18 then go back to the world and separate our life in the pew  
19 with our life on the path of discipleship, and that was never  
20 the intent.

21 When Jesus called his disciples to his side, he  
22 called them not to sit at his feet and listen to his vision;  
23 he called them to his side, to get out and to walk with them  
24 on the path of discipleship in life.

25 So that is why the text that I want to look at today

1 with you is from the Gospel of Mark.

2 It Jesus's call, the very first call to his  
3 disciples in Mark, Chapter 1, Verses 14 through 20.

4 What I was trying to say is that this is the first  
5 recording of Jesus calling people to his side, calling them  
6 to a path of discipleship.

7 Mark, Chapter 1. I invite you to follow along.  
8 It's on page 33 in the New Testament.

9 "Now after John was arrested Jesus came to Galilee  
10 proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time is  
11 fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and  
12 believe in the good news."

13 "As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee he saw  
14 Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for  
15 they were fishermen. And Jesus said, "Follow me and I will  
16 make you fish for people." And immediately they left their  
17 nets and followed him.

18 "As he went a little further he saw James, son of  
19 Zebedee, and his brother John, who were in their boat mending  
20 their nets. Immediately he called them and they left their  
21 father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed  
22 him."

23 We have heard this before. We know that Peter and  
24 Andrew and James and John were the first four called to  
25 Jesus's side.

1           And when Jesus comes up out of the water, for the  
2 writer of the Gospel of Mark, he begins his ministry  
3 immediately.

4           In fact, for the writer of Mark, immediately is a  
5 word that is used throughout.

6           It signifies that when we are going to have a life  
7 in Jesus there is no delay; that it calls for immediate  
8 response.

9           And Mr. Fuerst talked about that in the chapel this  
10 morning.

11           He was here from Lutheran Planned Giving and he  
12 talked about the fact that the response is immediate in the  
13 church in Macedonia to the needs of the travelers that came  
14 their way.

15           And they immediately reached into their pockets and  
16 lifted out the money, even out of their poverty.

17           And what caught me this morning as I was listening  
18 to his message was that immediate response.

19           Disciples give immediate response; they don't make  
20 excuses and they don't delay. They go.

21           And that's what we have in this calling of these  
22 first four disciples to Jesus's side.

23           Let's take a little bit closer look at it. In Verse  
24 15 there are two key words and they are repent and believe.

25           Repent is an old church word and it can really trip

1 us up if we stumble upon that word.

2 If we remember what it means, metanoia, it's a much  
3 more beautiful word in the Greek.

4 Metanoia means after a change of mind.

5 So repentance is a change of mind, and believe is a  
6 change of behavior.

7 So those two key words, repent and believe, they  
8 call for action.

9 We talked last week about the fact that discipleship  
10 is about a movement, not a monument.

11 And it always calls for movement on our part,  
12 whether we have to move something in our hearts, or move  
13 something in our minds, or move something in our physical  
14 bodies, in action, because of what God has called us to do.  
15 So those are the two key words there.

16 And then let's look at that immediate response in  
17 Verse 18.

18 Immediately, Simon Peter and his brother Andrew  
19 immediately leave their nets and they follow him.

20 What that is saying is that they left their  
21 livelihood, like that.

22 And then the other two, James and John, Verse 20,  
23 immediately they left.

24 This time they are the ones that got out of the  
25 boat, getting out their comfort zone.

1           And the difference between Simon Peter and Andrew  
2 and James and John is that they left their family.

3           And sometimes discipleship calls us to let some of  
4 our family dysfunction go, and instead we seek family in  
5 those who believe in God.

6           It's so vitally important, and Andy talked about  
7 that, the deep friendships that he has experienced through  
8 the family of Christ, just meeting in a regular way, trying  
9 to live a balanced life between worship of God, time with  
10 Christians, and time in the world.

11          That what it has helped him to understand is that  
12 these are the deep friendships; that this is the family that  
13 is my support and my stay.

14          For these four disciples it's an immediate response.  
15 They leave the security and the structures of family.

16          Sometimes that's vitally important as disciples,  
17 that we let go of the structure that we are used to in our  
18 families of origin, unhealthful, and we go instead toward  
19 what God has for us.

20          And what God has for us, according to this, is  
21 follow me.

22          Really, when you think about the immediate response,  
23 there is not much else to this. He just says follow me.

24          There must have been something in his presence,  
25 there must have been power and presence and a peace that drew

1 them to let go of the familiar, to get out of their comfort  
2 zone, and to let go and to let God.

3 The enemy wants to tell us a different thing, wants  
4 us to say maybe you're not quite ready to share your life,  
5 share some of your dirt with other people. That's what the  
6 enemy tells us.

7 Sharing lives shaped by Christ. What some of the  
8 disciples at Bethany are doing is a risk.

9 And when I thought about Chris and Kristi's prayer  
10 request, it's mostly about having the disciples and the  
11 friends that they invite over to their home, having them get  
12 out of their comfort zone and trust that if they risk sharing  
13 their lives, it will be met with compassion.

14 A friend of mine was telling me that she was  
15 visiting with a fellow mom after preschool and she was  
16 telling her about the group and she admitted that she just  
17 didn't think she was quite ready for that.

18 I don't know if I'm ready for that. I don't know if  
19 I'm ready to share my life.

20 That is what keeps us in the pew, rather than on the  
21 path of discipleship.

22 But that's the enemy; that's not God. The fear is  
23 how the enemy works.

24 Shame about the past and fear of the future. Those  
25 are the two ways the enemy works on us.

1           And when we come together and share our lives  
2 deeply, as what our friends have attested to in the last  
3 couple of weeks, there are joys beyond our understanding.

4           When those disciples left their nets and followed  
5 Jesus, they saw things and they heard things they had never  
6 seen before.

7           They saw healings; they saw miracles; they saw  
8 people get up from the dead; they saw people that were  
9 possessed with demons and darkness just walk into a new life.

10           And that's what these people are seeing, some of our  
11 friends at Bethany as they meet, continue to meet together,  
12 that's what they're seeing, they're seeing lives changed,  
13 transformed in Jesus Christ.

14           Well, on Friday night Mark was at the men's retreat  
15 and so I decided to watch a movie that he wouldn't really  
16 like to watch very much, because he doesn't appreciate my  
17 crush on Tom Cruise.

18           So I checked out "Top Gun". I was thinking about  
19 the risk that a fighter pilot takes and I had never really  
20 watched the movie from start to finish. I had seen snippets  
21 of it on television.

22           Seriously, I don't have a crush on Tom Cruise, for  
23 the record.

24           But I have always enjoyed Tom Cruise's acting. I  
25 think his acting is excellent.

1           So I sat down to watch that, and it's an old movie,  
2 isn't it? It's kind of old by now.

3           The styles I had forgotten, '80s style or something,  
4 but I was watching for the takeoff off that runway, off that  
5 flight deck

6           And I had read an article that there are five  
7 important steps to takeoff.

8           So I was watching for that, because the air boss is  
9 on the flight deck, and the pilot and copilot are in the  
10 plane, and they signal one another.

11          So I was watching for those signals, and there are  
12 five steps to takeoff.

13          And as I was thinking about Chris and Kristi's  
14 prayer request, I realized they are really exactly the same  
15 as the five steps to takeoff.

16          That's what they're hoping and praying, is that  
17 their new friendships in Christ will take off into the wild  
18 blue yonder so that they can experience joys on their  
19 spiritual journey that they have never experienced before.

20          So the first step of takeoff is of course the  
21 removal of what are called chocks.

22          If you know anything about aerodynamics you probably  
23 know the five steps, but I didn't know them, so we are going  
24 to go over them.

25          You remove these blocks, and it's amazing, they are

1 nothing but glorified door stops, really, but amazingly they  
2 keep that huge tonnage of aircraft stopped.

3 They keep that huge thing from rolling forward until  
4 it's ready to be rolled forward.

5 So that is the first step, is the removal of those  
6 blocks.

7 Chris and Kristi are praying that the people that  
8 come to their home will be open -- did you hear that --  
9 they'll be open to that path that God has for them as his  
10 disciples.

11 And the only way that we are going to be open as  
12 disciples is if we remove the blocks.

13 I don't know what they are for you. They could be  
14 something as small as an attitude in your mind and heart that  
15 I couldn't possibly share my life with other people.

16 They might not accept me if they really knew the  
17 kinds of things that I've experienced, or the kinds of things  
18 that I do or don't do.

19 So what are the blocks that are holding you back,  
20 that you might just drop what you're doing as Peter and  
21 Andrew and James and John did. Their response was immediate.

22 But sometimes it is just something simple as I don't  
23 think I'm ready yet, it's in your mind, or my heart, I have  
24 been rejected too many times.

25 What are the blocks that are holding you back from

1 really taking off on the path of discipleship?

2 I'll let you think about that.

3 The second step in taking off on the flight deck is  
4 the revving up of the engine.

5 Many of you have flown, I realize that, that's how  
6 the engine looks when it's not spinning, but an engine has to  
7 have just the perfect amount of tension for it to power up  
8 and get that plane off the ground.

9 And when Jesus came and called those disciples to  
10 his side, the words that he said before that were the time is  
11 here.

12 What is it exactly?

13 "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has  
14 come near."

15 The time, the word there is kyros. It's a different  
16 kind of time then ticking kronos. It's kyros time.

17 So there is a new kind of time here in me, is what  
18 Jesus is saying.

19 Now things are different, I'm here, and the kingdom  
20 has come near in me and, disciples, it's still here.

21 It wasn't back then that the kingdom came. It has  
22 come here among us.

23 And what Jesus means by that is his presence is here  
24 right now. The kingdom is right here.

25 And I'm saying that over and over again because we

1 don't really believe that.

2 We think that the kingdom came back then when Jesus  
3 was on earth, but, no, the time is now.

4 This is the present tense and the kingdom of God is  
5 near.

6 But there is a tension, because the kingdom is not  
7 complete.

8 What we have in Christ Jesus is not yet complete,  
9 and that is the tension.

10 So Jesus really came to announce almost a spiral  
11 tension, if you will, about the kingdom.

12 It's here, I'm here, but I want to show you more.  
13 There is more kingdom to come.

14 And when we pray in the Lord's Prayer thy kingdom  
15 come, your kingdom come, that's what we're asking.

16 We are asking God to show us more of what he's doing  
17 in our life, because he's present, and that's the promise in  
18 that.

19 When Chris and Kristi sent in that prayer request,  
20 the second thing that they asked about was whether or not  
21 their friends would have compassion for one another.

22 So when they took the risk of sharing their life, I  
23 thought that was amazing, Chris and Kristi, that that would  
24 be received with compassion.

25 Because, see, that's the fear. There's the tension

1 right there.

2           If I share my life, if I risk faith, will there be  
3 compassion?

4           If I risk telling God everything that I've done, or  
5 not done, will I be loved still?

6           It's just human nature, because we talk ourselves  
7 into that, that I'm not worthy, I'm not loveable, I'm not  
8 worth compassion.

9           And some of us get those messages from early on in  
10 some of our families of origin.

11           You talk about blocks, that's a lot, to move that  
12 block out.

13           But are you willing to risk sharing life and receive  
14 compassion?

15           What a great prayer request and that's like the  
16 tension of the second step.

17           The third step in getting off the flight deck is the  
18 pilot and the copilot give a thumbs up to the air boss on the  
19 flight deck, signaling that they think the plane is ready for  
20 takeoff, and that they trust in the ground crew to help them  
21 and guide them when they are in the air. That's trust.

22           And when God calls us to his side, when Jesus calls  
23 us from the pew to the path of discipleship, he's pretty much  
24 telling us faith is our thumbs up.

25           Belief is the thumbs up and he wants more than

1 anything for us to give the thumbs up to him.

2 I trust you, God, I trust you, and I'm willing to  
3 take off and let you rule in my life.

4 Chris and Kristi asked for prayer, they want the  
5 disciples to be accountable and encouraging and trust in that  
6 encouragement and accountability.

7 They want the friends that come to their home to  
8 give the thumbs up to one another, to say way to go, and  
9 encourage each other with what God is doing in their life.

10 It's the same thing, and when we give the thumbs up  
11 to one another, God smiles, when we encourage each other, and  
12 when we hold each other accountable for what is happening in  
13 our life.

14 Pilots have no idea what they are going to encounter  
15 when they head up into the sky.

16 They don't know if it's going to be friendly sky or  
17 turbulence.

18 They have some idea, but they never really know and  
19 they have to trust the ground crew to guide them.

20 And as Christians we can trust God's eternal  
21 closeness.

22 That's what Jesus means when he says the kingdom of  
23 God has come near.

24 I am nearer to you than you are able to ask. Think  
25 of that, disciples.

1           I'm nearer to you than you are able to ask. That's  
2 the kind of eternal closeness that we all have and we can  
3 count on that.

4           The fourth step is a somber salute from the air boss  
5 to the pilots.

6           And it's somber because at this point the plane is  
7 getting ready to take off and it's a life or death mission.

8           Every flight is a life or death mission, so it's a  
9 somber salute, and it's a sign of respect that we recognize  
10 that this is a life or death mission for you. It always is.

11           So is our call to discipleship. It's a life or  
12 death mission, because there are people, neighbors, dying  
13 around us.

14           There are friends that are living under the weight  
15 of unhealthy marriages, where it's not life-giving.

16           As Martin Luther says, what makes a good marriage is  
17 mutual respect, mutual conversation, and mutual love.

18           Affection, conversation, and respect. Those three  
19 things make a good marriage.

20           Mutual respect, mutual affection, and mutual  
21 conversation.

22           And there are friends of ours that don't have that,  
23 and there are people that are living under the weight of drug  
24 addiction, or alcohol addiction.

25           They are dying. It is a matter of life and death,

1 if we are going to reach out in life-saving friendship

2 And what Chris and Kristi asked in the prayer  
3 request is that there would be respect for the babysitters  
4 with the children.

5 We have these youngest disciples of ours, and that  
6 they would be safe, and have fun, and be friends.

7 This Gospel, this love story and the commandments in  
8 it, they don't save us, but they keep us safe

9 And we have been entrusted with a life-saving  
10 message, because there are people that are dying around us

11 So the question is, will we reach beyond ourselves  
12 in life-saving friendships?

13 And all it takes is a call sometimes, say we are  
14 having a few people over, can you come over for dinner?

15 So what, what the house looks like? Who cares?  
16 It's a life or death mission.

17 And that's why the air boss just gives a respectful  
18 salute.

19 And then the last step is a forward motion by the  
20 air boss and now it's ready for takeoff into the wild blue  
21 yonder, and have fun.

22 The last request is that God would be with the  
23 leaders and fill them with his Spirit, so they would be alive  
24 in his Spirit.

25 And that's the wind. The wind of the Spirit is what

1 will propel us into the wild blue yonder.

2 My question to you is, are you willing to let go?  
3 That's what Dave talked about in the chapel this morning.

4 So many people find their happiness in a house or in  
5 a car.

6 Are you willing to let go, he said, of material  
7 blessings and find the true joy and the true happiness.

8 That's what happened to those disciples. Once they  
9 left their family, and their livelihood, and their boats, and  
10 their couches and their pews, and they joined Jesus on the  
11 path of discipleship, they saw things that they had never  
12 seen before.

13 Marriages getting healthy. People dropping some of  
14 the addictions, some of the unhealthy choices that they were  
15 making week in and week out.

16 That's what our friends are seeing. They're seeing  
17 people's lives turn around.

18 I think it is better than a house. I think it is  
19 better than a car. I think it's better than a closet full of  
20 clothes or shoes.

21 Because that's the true joy, and Jesus calls us not  
22 to sit as his feet and listen to a vision, but he calls us to  
23 his side, and are we going to let go and let God take us into  
24 the wild blue yonder.

25 This past week I had a funeral at a funeral home at

1 108th and Maple for a 94 year old man, Rufus Amos, and he was  
2 an entrepreneur and he loved to fly airplanes.

3 And apparently in the '40s and '50s he built his own  
4 plane and used to fly.

5 And I said to Fred, who comes to Bethany, he and  
6 Robin come to Bethany, "Why do you think your dad liked  
7 flying?"

8 He said, "I don't know, but I suppose maybe the  
9 freedom. He was a businessman, and he drove a hard bargain,  
10 and he was an entrepreneur, and I think when he got up above  
11 those clouds he felt like he had freedom."

12 In the week of his dad's death he had a dream that  
13 he was in a plane, and he was in the back of the plane.

14 There was the pilot's side, the copilot, and then he  
15 was in the back seat.

16 And for some reason, he said in his dream for some  
17 reason the pilot was incapacitated, and couldn't fly the  
18 plane, so the copilot had to take over.

19 And he was telling me, "When I woke up I realized  
20 that the copilot was my dad, but I couldn't see him until I  
21 got out of the plane and looked in the window."

22 But he said, "The copilot, my dad, said let's see  
23 what this thing can do," and he took in his dream and he took  
24 a nose dive and he spun up and down kind of like in "Top Gun"  
25 and spun around.

1           And Fred said, "And the thing is, I wasn't afraid at  
2 all. It was exhilarating."

3           I asked Fred if I could share that dream, because I  
4 think that's what our pilot God want us to say.

5           Let's see what this thing can do. That is our  
6 discipleship. Let's put it to the test.

7           Because our pilot God is not incapacitated, and he  
8 wants more than anything for us to give him the thumbs up.

9           I trust you, God. I will trust in your love.  
10 You've told you will rescue me.

11           You've told me you will be there if I left this  
12 unhealthy marriage.

13           You have told me that if I let go of alcohol or  
14 drugs that you would be there for me, so let's see what this  
15 thing can do.

16           I think that's what God wants us to do. I think he  
17 wants us to let go, give him the thumbs up that we believe in  
18 him, and ask his help in removing some of those blocks that  
19 are keeping us from doing life together deeply.

20           Let's pray about that.

21           God, you are holy and awesome and you are our pilot  
22 and you are not incapacitated in the least.

23           Thank you for inviting us to take off into the wild  
24 blue yonder with you; to risk sharing life, to risk receiving  
25 compassion, to have some fun, some exhilaration, instead of

1 same old/same old.

2 Lord, I know that you are here today and that there  
3 are hearts in this room that want you to remove some of those  
4 blocks that are keeping them from living a life of  
5 discipleship.

6 Thank you for those disciples that left all to  
7 follow you.

8 That's what we want to do. Help us. Help us, pilot  
9 God.

10 We love you and we thank you for your word. In  
11 Jesus's name. Amen.

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