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BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELKHORN, NEBRASKA
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PASTOR MARK FRY

1 PASTOR MARK FRY: We're doing this sensitivity topic
2 today, so if you want to use one of our Bibles, we provide
3 them.

4 If you bring your own, it's even better, but we love
5 to provide them for you, too.

6 So the Book of Romans, the Apostle Paul, he was a
7 Jewish leader who had a very significant religious experience
8 and so he converted from being Saul to Paul and he became a
9 Christian.

10 And he was a guy on the move all the time and doing
11 mission work like crazy

12 And he was writing this letter back to the church at
13 Rome, which was the center of the civilized world, the Roman
14 Empire.

15 So he's writing to people who are very
16 sophisticated.

17 He's writing to people who have a lot of blessings
18 that the rest of the world didn't have at that time.

19 He's writing to them about priorities, but he's also
20 just writing to them with probably the Mt. Everest of
21 theology, his Jewishness, and his Christianity are coming
22 together in Jesus.

23 And he's sharing that through written word, through
24 preached word, and through lived word. So that's the letter
25 to the Romans in Rome.

1 We are jumping into that in the 12th Chapter and I'm
2 jumping in at the 9th Verse.

3 We'll come back to that, but I wanted to show you
4 the sensitively training part

5 And then I'll hopefully have some helpful things to
6 shine into this living text. It begins at Verse 9.

7 "Let love be genuine. Hate what is evil and hold
8 fast to what is good. Love one another with mutual
9 affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag
10 in zeal, be ardent in spirit and serve the Lord. Rejoice in
11 hope. Be patient in suffering and persevere in prayer.
12 Contribute to the needs of the saints and extend hospitality
13 to strangers.

14 "Bless those who persecute you; bless, do not curse
15 them. Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who
16 weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty,
17 but associate with the lowly. Do not claim to be wiser than
18 you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought
19 for what is noble in the sight of all. If it's possible, so
20 far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved,
21 never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God,
22 for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the
23 Lord." No. If you are enemies are hungry, feed them. If
24 they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing
25 this you'll heap burning coals on their heads. Do not be

1 overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

2 We pause there and you can mark that and I want to
3 come back to that in the text.

4 We have been a lot of different places this summer,
5 literally and figuratively as the church, we have been
6 literally spread all over the world.

7 Now we are back, some of us, and some of us are
8 still yet to come back, but we have been off doing some
9 abiding.

10 We have been off doing some vacationing. We have
11 been off doing some business. We have been off doing some
12 mission.

13 But now we're back, and we had Bible school just
14 last week, my ears are still ringing from the joy of that, it
15 was a great week, the week before last, and we celebrated
16 that last week, but we kind of called time out in this whole
17 being alive series, this "Body by God", and now we are kind
18 of wrapping that up with this whole notion of sensitivity.

19 For, you see, a living person, or a living cell, a
20 living church, a living denomination, a living anything,
21 shows seven signs of life.

22 I've got these different signs of life. Living
23 things move, they breathe, they grow, they reproduce, they
24 eat, they excrete, if you don't you are going to poison
25 yourself.

1 And last, but not least, living things are
2 sensitive. They have sensitivity.

3 And you see this, we know this, because you just
4 take a plant in from the winter and you put it near the light
5 and it grows toward the light.

6 It has this sensitivity in it if it's still alive
7 that it's going to seek out the light.

8 You can see this in the simplest of microorganisms,
9 that they have a sensitivity to heat, or to light, or to
10 vibration, and if they are alive they are going to react to
11 that. They are going to move.

12 But they are going to be sensitive, or else they're
13 dead.

14 So they are going to adjust. They are going to
15 compensate in a way to keep themselves alive.

16 It's one of the signs of life. It's just a
17 scientific fact. Temperature, light, pressure, sound.

18 Churches, Christians, need to be sensitive if they
19 are going to be alive.

20 In Bible school the week before last we had five
21 fabulous stories about water.

22 We had stories of Jesus calming the storm in the
23 boat.

24 We had the story of a woman at a well who met the
25 living water in Jesus.

1 We had the story of Jesus washing the disciples'
2 feet with water.

3 We had two stories in the story of Moses, of the
4 exodus, and how precious water is in the desert, of parting
5 the Red Sea for deliverance.

6 And there is the great story of Moses hitting the
7 rock with a stick and water comes out.

8 And especially when it's so hot out, we know how
9 important water is.

10 It keeps us alive literally. Literally it is this
11 precious commodity that we have to always have.

12 But in the midst of those two stories of Moses, I've
13 really been drawn to the story of Moses and Pharaoh.

14 And Moses is the leader of the Israelites and
15 Pharaoh is the power that is.

16 He's like this cruel dictator, and he's not going to
17 let the people go.

18 So I've been pondering that a lot, of a power
19 struggle, and on the web site of our church, and we are at
20 Bethany-Lutheran.com, we have got a really cool little
21 feature there, it's on the discover section, you click on
22 that and just slightly drag down and you will see Bible
23 study.

24 And you can just click on that and you can put a
25 word in there and it's just instant and it will give you all

1 the scriptural references for whatever word you just asked
2 about.

3 And I was thinking of this story of Moses and
4 Pharaoh.

5 And I was thinking about the whole issue that
6 Pharaoh's deal is his heart is hardened.

7 So I did a Bible study and a Bible search on the
8 word hardened in context of hardened hearts.

9 And it shows up twenty-two different times in the
10 Bible, but fifteen of them are in the Book of Exodus.

11 And it's really interesting to me, I printed them
12 all off, and I was doing an inventory on them, Exodus 7-13;
13 7-14; 7-22; 8-13; 8-15; 8-19; 8-32, but in all of these it
14 says Pharaoh's heart was hardened.

15 "Pharaoh saw this and his heart was hardened."

16 The magician said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of
17 God and Pharaoh's heart was hardened."

18 It does this eight times and then right on the heels
19 of that it shifts gears slightly and in Exodus 10-1, 10-20,
20 10-27, 11-10, 14-8, 14-7, it has not Pharaoh's heart being
21 hardened, but God hardening Pharaoh's heart.

22 I thought that was interesting, because sometimes
23 Pharaoh chooses a hardened heart, and other times God does it
24 to him; eight times and seven times. It's pretty equal.

25 And so I have been wrestling with that, because I

1 was having a little bit of a prayeresque episode of, is it
2 really true that God hardens people's hearts? I thought that
3 was their own choice.

4 But it's a little bit of both. We live in a both
5 and world.

6 Pharaoh's heart becomes hardened, he's got power,
7 and he's no longer sensitive to the cries of those around
8 him, but part of that is God hardening Pharaoh's heart.

9 I was like that can't be true, but it is true in my
10 life.

11 There have been different times in my life when I've
12 chosen to not be sensitive.

13 And there are other times when I was kind of
14 unaware, that maybe God was just doing something, and later
15 on I became aware to it and I was like, oh, I didn't even
16 know that was happening.

17 For, you see, God is panoramic. He's not just
18 specific.

19 So sensitivity is a matter of the soul, but it's
20 also what God wants of us.

21 He want us to listen to him and to be more sensitive
22 to the world.

23 Because he's got this amazing journey that he's got
24 us on.

25 And there are different times in it when our hearts

1 have been hardened by God.

2 And there are other times in it when we have made
3 that choice, because God gives us free will.

4 And it's so fascinating to me, I was touched by this
5 yet again today when you come for Communion, there are some
6 people that I know your stories, and so when I see you come
7 to the Sacrament, I'm just blown away by that, because some
8 of the stuff that has happened to you guys has hardened other
9 people's hearts.

10 That's really an amazing paradox, that sometimes God
11 is doing that, and sometimes for convenience, for whatever,
12 we just shut down, I've had enough, I'm out of here.

13 But other times it's God working in our lives, in
14 the past, to harden our hearts so that the bigger story comes
15 out.

16 So that's what I wanted to set as the frame of the
17 context thing.

18 I got a great e-mail from a friend this week and it
19 was comparing a cell phone and a Bible.

20 This is one of the ways we increase our sensitivity,
21 is by talking and listening to God.

22 But what would happen if we treated our Bibles like
23 our cell phones? Listen to this.

24 What if we carried it around in our purses or
25 pockets?

1 What if we turned back to go get it after we forgot
2 it?

3 What if we flipped through it several times a day?

4 What if we used it to receive messages from the
5 text?

6 I wonder what would happen if we treated it like we
7 couldn't live without it?

8 What if we gave it to our kids as gifts?

9 What if we used it as we traveled?

10 What if we used it in the case of emergency?

11 What if we upgraded it to get the latest version?

12 I was kind of convicted by that, because I've always
13 had the RSV Bible, and I'm not saying I should throw that
14 away to get the latest version, but notice the different
15 things, that we value so much a cell phone, more than a
16 Bible.

17 And it's a means of communication. It's a means of
18 listening to God, and sharing with people about God.

19 One of the things that the Spirit does is it
20 comforts the afflicted and it afflicts the comfortable, if we
21 are sensitive to it.

22 There is a difference between condemnation and
23 conviction.

24 Things that are condemning are from the enemy; but
25 things that are convicting oftentimes are from the Lord.

1 He just is kind of getting our attention, and he
2 doesn't want our hearts to be hardened to that voice.

3 So I throw that out and then now we jump into
4 Romans 12 as our sensitivity training, because we do need to
5 show signs of being alive; not dead.

6 And Paul, in the letter to the Romans, is talking to
7 people who were very sophisticated, very blessed in a lot of
8 different ways, and he starts right out saying to be alive.

9 "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by
10 the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living
11 sacrifice."

12 In other words, if you are alive, then you are not
13 some dead thing laying on an altar.

14 Your body is not something that is in the past.
15 Don't be a dead sacrifice.

16 Don't just lay there like a pew potato. Get out of
17 the boat. Present your body as a living sacrifice, he says.

18 It's amazing, because the next verse is so
19 oftentimes used.

20 "Do not be conformed to this world, but be
21 transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you may
22 discern what is the will of God."

23 So that you might have sensitivity to what God wants
24 in your life.

25 "What is good and acceptable and perfect."

1 Be transformed; not conformed.

2 I think we've all been in kind of a perpetual
3 conformation process as western Christians, that we conform
4 to the world around us, instead of seeking the light and
5 moving in a different direction.

6 I don't know confirmation; I mean conformation. We
7 are supposed to be transformed.

8 Yes, we are citizens of this world, but we've got a
9 higher calling as Christians, to be alive, not just
10 lethargic.

11 There's that old joke, if you were accused of being
12 a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

13 In other words, God is looking at us and he's going
14 what distinguishes you from anybody else that is out there?

15 Amazingly, if we have 80 percent that worship in our
16 country, or whatever, why are we in such a world of hurt?

17 If that's the only mark of being a Christian, is
18 that evidence?

19 It's not evidence to the positive; it's evidence to
20 the negative that we are not a living sacrifice.

21 We are doing this lethargy thing that sometimes gets
22 us. Are you a living sacrifice Paul is wondering.

23 Verse 3, "For by the grace given to me I say to
24 everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than
25 you ought."

1 Just because you are a western civilization
2 Christian, don't think that you've got it all figured out.

3 And Karen said it eloquently, she said, "I thought I
4 was going to go down there and save those kids. Those kids
5 in a way saved me."

6 South America needs a North America, but we need
7 South America.

8 We need Pastor Helen King in North Omaha just as
9 much as she needs us.

10 Pastor Wenda is learning so much from Helen as her
11 mentor it's unbelievable.

12 Wenda is supposed to be the teacher and she's just
13 constantly blown away by what Helen is teaching her.

14 In a community that is only 27 minutes from our
15 front door, they had worship services two weeks ago and
16 nobody showed up. Nobody.

17 And I said to Helen, "That must have just been
18 devastating."

19 She said, "It was, but I just spent the time then in
20 prayer."

21 If you guys didn't show up everybody on one week, I
22 probably wouldn't be spending my time in prayer.

23 I would be spending my time packing my house and
24 moving, because I must have failed.

25 She's teaching us just as much as we are teaching

1 her, if not more.

2 And there is that great expression, I need you to be
3 me. I can't do this by myself.

4 I need you, Lord, and I need you to put on flesh,
5 because I'm not a human being by being an island.

6 Grace is the key for that. Paul says, "For by the
7 grace given me."

8 He's saying basically there but for the grace of God
9 go I, and we get the superiority complex, if I was poor, I
10 would rise up and pull myself up by my bootstraps, and I
11 wouldn't be poor very long, I would work myself out of it.

12 Don't be too sure. You just happened to be born
13 this side of the pond, with a tremendous amount of blessings
14 that oftentimes we take for granted.

15 And I learn that every time I travel, no matter
16 where I travel.

17 We need to understand that we aren't so perfect.
18 Manifest destiny. They can determine their own kind of
19 destiny.

20 Don't be so sure. There but for the grace of God
21 go I.

22 The other day I was sitting in the office, we flew
23 to Baltimore for a family healing session, which was
24 fantastic.

25 I was in my office, I think it was Tuesday, had to

1 get all my notes and stuff done on my message by Wednesday
2 and I just had read that verse in there where it said
3 contribute to the needs of the saints, extend hospitality to
4 strangers.

5 It's about 4:30 in the afternoon and I looked out of
6 the corner of my eye and there is a woman in my office.

7 She goes, "Excuse me."

8 I'm like, "Excuse me for not noticing you."

9 She goes, "There was nobody out in the office," and
10 she just started to cry.

11 She's looking for a job, and it would have been
12 easier for me to just say the unemployment office is wherever
13 it is, or there is a Goodwill down the street, or we have an
14 emergency fund here in the community.

15 She wasn't asking for anything. She just said, "I
16 was really feeling defeated right now."

17 I said, "Sit down. So am I."

18 She shared with me her situation in life. She had
19 moved from Minnesota, she's here, she was looking for a job,
20 she came down for a family thing and because of the economy
21 she got let go.

22 I could have easily missed her. I could have had
23 the door locked to get my important work done.

24 I just had read the verse, and I told her that,
25 "Don't apologize for being here. God just sent you right

1 here right now. We need to be together."

2 And she looked at me like this is weird. I think it
3 was an angel. I think it was an angel.

4 And I got her phone number and I'm going to check
5 back with her, because I was trying to make some referrals
6 for her to maybe find some work.

7 See, we can be conformed to this world and we can
8 miss those things.

9 But Paul goes into great detail there in Chapter 12,
10 he's doing all that, he has the whole spiritual gifts thing
11 going on there.

12 Verse 6, he does some body image stuff, I need you
13 to be me.

14 I needed that person in order for me to be myself.
15 I could have been in my holy little huddle there getting my
16 work done in my office.

17 And I could have been, sorry. That's the Good
18 Samaritan story.

19 I have to get my sermon ready for Sunday. Don't be
20 bothering me.

21 That's the priest and the scribes and the religious
22 leaders, they don't see the injured man on the side of the
23 road, because they don't have panoramic and peripheral
24 vision.

25 We have to constantly have that sensitivity. God is

1 always knocking on the door bringing us these teachable
2 moments, always, if we're paying attention, but grace is the
3 key to that.

4 Body image. He talks about spiritual gifts in
5 Verses 6 through 8.

6 And then we get into the part where I read earlier.
7 He's talking about let your love be genuine.

8 In other words, it's not something you can fake, and
9 we're good at that, too.

10 The there most misused words in the world are I love
11 you.

12 You hear it in all the stupid movies. Oh, I love
13 you. They don't love each other. It's acting.

14 And the world has stolen the church's best line. I
15 really love you.

16 No, you don't. You just want to use me. You just
17 want to sell your product to me.

18 You just want to take advantage of me. You want me
19 to buy something from you.

20 No, no, God says I love you. There is no product
21 here, and he wants us to do that.

22 He says, "Let your love be genuine. Hate what is
23 evil and hold fast to what is good. Love one another with
24 mutual affection," not just a pat on the head type affection,
25 but a full frontal embrace type love, brotherly love.

1 I've got a Bible that I travel with, I took this
2 again with me, and this little black Bible is really awesome
3 because it has a little different translation.

4 "Don't pretend that you love others, but really love
5 them. Hate what is wrong and stand on the side of the good.
6 Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in
7 honoring each other. Never be lazy in your work, but serve
8 the Lord enthusiastically. Be glad for all God is planning
9 for you. Be patient in trouble and always be prayerful.
10 When God's children are in need, be the one to help them, and
11 get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner, or if
12 they need lodging, for the whole night. If people persecute
13 you because you are a Christian, don't curse them. Pray that
14 God will bless them. When others are happy, be happy with
15 them. If they are sad, share their sorrow. Live in harmony
16 with each other. Don't try to act important. Enjoy the
17 company of ordinary people, and don't think you know it all."

18 I love that. I do. Most of the time I think I know
19 it all.

20 But you can't let your knowledge get out in front of
21 your obedience.

22 I was intrigued by that, those verses there. There
23 is that great quote in the end of Chapter 12, Verse 20, "If
24 your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty,
25 give them something to drink, for by doing this you'll heap

1 burning coals on their head."

2 I misinterpreted that for most of my life. I used
3 to think what that means, if somebody has done something
4 really stupid or bad to me, and I really don't like them
5 anymore, if they are my enemy, then I thought that used to
6 mean that I was supposed to be nice to them, because that was
7 kind of then self-vindication so that God will get back at
8 them.

9 Like if Lee had done something really rotten to me,
10 I would give him a drink of water, give him food, it would
11 almost be like a behind the back kind of a thing of I'll show
12 you, you give that and then you just sit back and say God is
13 going to settle his score, because God knows how bad Lee, or
14 whoever it was, was to me, so I'm self-righteous. I thought
15 that's what that text meant.

16 But in so doing you're heaping hot coals on their
17 head, see.

18 So I did a little word search on that. What is that
19 all about, that heaping hot coals on their head?

20 There is a proverb in the Bible that talks about
21 that, and here is basically what is going on.

22 Egyptian literature in this time, it's Proverbs 25,
23 it is advised to bring one's enemy to remorse by acts of
24 generosity by feeding and offering them drink, in such
25 fashion "heaping burning coals of fire on to his head"

1 because standing with coals of fire on one's head was a rite
2 of penitence, one has both punished but also reinstated him
3 as a friend.

4 In other words, you are not killing them with
5 kindness and expecting God to settle the score; you are just
6 starting the process of repentance.

7 That totally changes that verse for me, because I
8 know I tend toward self-righteousness of, well, my enemies, I
9 will be kind to them and I will sit back and I'll think God
10 is going to get you.

11 I thought that's what it said, but it really is to
12 be kind and loving to them, because then they can start the
13 whole concept of repentance.

14 It's unconditional love. It isn't I'm better than
15 you and I'm going to give you some food so that you choke on
16 it.

17 It's Jesus loves me, and so I'm going to do just the
18 opposite of the way the world teaches me to do it.

19 I'm not going to be conformed; I'm going to be
20 transformed by the renewing of my mind, and I literally am
21 going to go in another direction of where the false light was
22 calling me.

23 In conclusion, it's amazing to me how Christianity
24 has become such a surface religion.

25 Oftentimes I hear people, really quite frequently,

1 people at a conference or whatever, and there are churched
2 people there, and people will ask, "Are you a Christian?"

3 And the lot of people I hang with go, "No, I'm a
4 Lutheran."

5 And I kind of do a little bit of a mental note on
6 that every time that happens, what does that mean?

7 And I'm proud of our heritage, but I've kind of had
8 to revisit that, and I have had to not hide behind my
9 denominationalism, and I've really had to be sensitive to a
10 world that is so hungry and thirsty they need Jesus.

11 They don't need Luther, but they need a Lutheran way
12 of speaking about it, I'm not going to argue that, and I'm
13 certainly not going to change that in my own mind, but that's
14 an interesting parallel to that.

15 Here is the way a professor of mine in seminary
16 talked about Romans 12.

17 He said there is not a uniquely Christian ethic, but
18 a uniquely Christian faith which takes specific shape.

19 What does it look like to be a Christian? Romans
20 12. Love one another. Forgive one another. Show honor to
21 one another, and also not just ourselves, but the world.

22 I conclude with a gardening foible that we are
23 experiencing as a couple at home.

24 We have an empty nest now. Our kids are gone. We
25 have a 24 year old, she just turned 24 on the 24th, and our

1 son is 19.

2 We can't grow tomatoes to save our soul, and I know
3 a lot of you guys are laughing at me because I've got that
4 weakness in my spirit.

5 But Wenda is our gardener, she does the whole garden
6 thing, and we have moved these plants around for about the
7 last six years.

8 We've asked my brother-in-law, who knows everything.

9 We have asked my son-in-law, who knows almost
10 everything, what kind of tomatoes should we be planting?

11 We have gone from Big Boy, to Big Buster Boy, and
12 Big Boy Hybrid Part II, and we have moved them around, we've
13 put on growth giver. We have put on fertilizer.

14 "You're using the wrong kind of animal manure."
15 Somebody told us that.

16 You know what it has really boiled down to, we moved
17 them from one spot to another.

18 Somebody just told me last week, he's got these
19 tomato plants that are going nuts already, he plants them by
20 his air conditioner because they love the vibration.

21 I'm like, oh, man, don't tell me that, we've finally
22 got them over on the east side of our house, and now he's
23 telling me the other side.

24 I was really a nice guy when I started my gardening
25 career, and I don't have a very illustrious one, but I

1 thought it's hot in Nebraska, I'm going to plant them in the
2 shade.

3 I'm going to be so compassionate and kind to these
4 things, I'm going to put them in the shade.

5 If it's 113, or whatever the heat index is, who
6 wants to be out in that? We will put them in the shade.

7 Now everybody is saying that they don't get enough
8 sunlight.

9 We have moved those plants around. We've put them
10 out by the bird bath. We have put them out by the evergreen
11 tree.

12 Every year everybody else has -- and I have tomato
13 envy -- everybody else has tomatoes, and this year we've got
14 just a few little Little Boys, not Big Boys, and this year we
15 are going to be gone for part of August, we'll probably be
16 gone when the things are popping anyway.

17 But then there is the tomato curse where everybody
18 goes and gives their tomatoes to everybody else because they
19 have so many, and we are just sitting around almost praying,
20 bring us some tomatoes, Lord, because we can't grow them.

21 Here is the irony of it. A lot of us think it's
22 more comfortable in the shade.

23 What tomatoes need is intense sunlight to grow and
24 to be successful.

25 That's what Christians need to be sensitive, is

1 intense Son light, S-O-N, to grow and to be alive.

2 How do we get that? We get it by being counter-
3 cultural.

4 We get it by listening to Jesus, and as I've gotten
5 older and older, and dumber and dumber in some ways, all I
6 want to do now is listen to Jesus.

7 That's all I want to do when I wake up in the
8 morning, is I want to talk to him, I want to listen to him, I
9 want to read his stories, I want to be around his people who
10 are in and not yet in the kingdom.

11 It's intense Son light; it's not in the shade. We
12 don't have it made in the shade. We fade when we are in the
13 shade.

14 We are called to be sensitive, but all the different
15 things we need to block the sunlight, sun screen, and SPF
16 factor this, and build on this thing, and put on air
17 conditioning, get a sprinkler system and all that stuff, we
18 tend to then stay in our houses, instead of staying with our
19 head on the Father's chest.

20 That's what Paul is teaching about. He said let
21 your love be genuine. Outdo each other in showing
22 hospitality. Look for the stranger, don't avoid them, reach
23 out to them, because we have entertained angels unaware by
24 welcoming them into our hearts and homes.

25 It's a balance, you see. It's the up, in and the

1 out, and we have to be sensitive to all of those. It's
2 constant learning.

3 Thanks for being sensitive this morning. I hope
4 today as you turn on that great blessing of air conditioning,
5 I'm not going to go home and throw mine away, but we have to
6 have water and we have to have intense Son light to be
7 sensitive and to grow.

8 We are going to have some prayer ministers up here,
9 too.

10 If you are sad right now, praise God. We'll help
11 with that. We'll pray about that.

12 If you are mad right now, let's bring that to the
13 light.

14 If you are happy, sad, mad, glad, whatever it is,
15 those things need to be brought to Jesus on a regular basis.
16 So let's pray a minute and then we'll go to serve.

17 Thanks, Lord, thank you, Jesus, for intense Son
18 light. We need to seek it, not in the shade, but rather in
19 your presence.

20 So, Lord, would you give us the time, give us the
21 discipline that we can seek that and listen to you through
22 your word, through your people, and through those who maybe
23 don't know you yet, because when we open our hearts and our
24 doors to them, they will teach us about you as well.

25 Thank you, Lord, for sensitivity. I know how tired

1 I am today, and I know how tired sometimes it is for people
2 to be a family, or to travel, or to work, so may we rest in
3 the assurance that you're God, and we're not, and that's the
4 greatest gift.

5 Bring us together safely often and soon and send us
6 into this hot day today with water, nourishment, and
7 gratitude. Thank you, Lord. Amen.

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