

Jesus is All I Need

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, May 16 & 23, 2021

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for joining us today! Whether you are here in person or watching via the livestream, you are most welcome. Please have a Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes. We have much to cover in a relatively short amount of time.

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 1

In recent weeks we have addressed the biblical names and titles used in reference to Jesus Christ. We have considered Christ as the Almighty, the Alpha and the Omega, the Amen, Immanuel, the Judge, the Bright Morning Star, our Apostle and the Prophet like unto Moses, our Advocate and High Priest, our Forerunner, the Only Begotten and the Firstborn of the Father, the Heir of All Things, the Head of the Church, and the Last Adam.

FYI – These sermons and accompanying notes are posted online for your review (www.NewLifeBarre.org).

This morning I would like to offer an addendum to this previous series (i.e., a short supplement and/or addition). My remarks will be rather simple and straightforward, and they will all be based upon the following principle: “Jesus is All I Need” (SLIDE)...

KEY – Say it with me; say it again; and one more time...

Jesus is ALL I Need.

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 2

I want you to take a moment to consider the following question(s)...

Q1. What do we really “need” in this life?

Q2. What do we desperately long for, desire or crave?

Q3. What elements do we ardently pursue, labor for and seek after?

KEY – Without answering aloud take a moment to consider your response(s) to these questions. Have you ever considered that Christ is sufficient to meet any and every need we could put forth in reply? Let us take some time to explore such a statement with the following (i.e., in no particular order)...

1) UNDERSTANDING

Firstly, I posit that we have an ingrained need for understanding and empathy. We all long for someone who “knows” us and what it is like to “be” us (i.e., “shared” life-experiences). We look for such things in our friends, in our spouses, in our church connections, etc. Of course, such understanding can be hard to find...

QUOTE – “Everyone wants to be understood, but few want to understand.” Yet...

KEY – Those who long for empathy and understanding need look no further than Christ Jesus...

A) The Lord Knows You (i.e., Everything About You)

Matthew 10:30 (NIV)

30 . . . even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Psalms 139:1–6, 13–18

- 1 You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.
- 2 You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- 3 You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
- 4 Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.
- 5 You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.

- 13 For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
- 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
- 15 My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- 16 Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.
- 17 How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!
- 18 Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand—
when I awake, I am still with you.

B) The Lord Knows What It Is Like to “Be” You (Shared Life-Experiences)

John 1:1–2, 14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. . . . 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Hebrews 4:14–16

14 . . . since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

2) ACCEPTANCE

Secondly, I would put forth that we have an abiding need for acceptance. We all long for someone who will take us as we are (i.e., failings, warts and all). We desire those with whom we can be vulnerable and bring to light our failings without fear of judgment! I am not talking about the approval or condoning of sinful behavior(s)—but the willingness to “receive” us in our brokenness and love us still.

KEY – Those who long for such acceptance need look no further than Christ Jesus...

Luke 15:11–24

11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

13 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ 20 So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

3) VALUATION

Thirdly, I put forth that we all have a deep-seated need for esteem and valuation. We all long to be treated with respect, worth and dignity (i.e., despite inherent and/or glaring imperfections). No one wants to be treated as though they are without value; worthless, unnecessary and undesired!

KEY – Those who long for such valuation need look no further than Christ Jesus...

NOTE 1 – We possess unchanging and undiminished value because of our unique connection with the Lord...

Genesis 1:26–27 (Emphasis Mine)

26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in **our image**, in our likeness . . . 27 So God created mankind **in his own image**, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

NOTE 2 – We “all” possess unchanging and undiminished value because of our unique connection with God...

Luke 7:36–50

36 When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. 37 A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. 38 As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. 39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.”

40 Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.”

“Tell me, teacher,” he said.

41 “Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”

43 Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.”

“You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.

44 Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. 47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

48 Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

49 The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

50 Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

4) AFFECTION

I posit that we all have an ingrained need to be loved. We all long for a sense of unceasing, unconditional affection in a truly transient world. No one wants someone who will love them only when they are useful, beneficial and/or lovely (i.e., possessing some “admirable” quality)! We want someone who will love us despite ourselves at times. Of course, such “affection” is hard to find...

QUOTE – “The problem is everyone is looking for unconditional love, carrying a bag full of conditions.” Yet...

KEY – Those who long for such affection need look no further than Christ Jesus...

John 3:16 (Emphasis Mine)

16 For God so **loved** the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever** believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1 John 4:10 (Emphasis Mine)

10 This is love: not that we loved God, **but** that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Romans 5:8 (Emphasis Mine)

8 But God demonstrates his own **love** for us in this: While we were still **sinners**, Christ died for us.

NOTE – Please consider the following (one of many accounts I could cite)...

Luke 5:27–32

27 After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, 28 and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

29 Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. 30 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

31 Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

KEY 1 – Jesus Christ did not love Levi because he was useful, beneficial or particularly admirable in moral quality (i.e., conditions). Quite the contrary! Rather, Levi (i.e., Matthew) became useful, beneficial and admirable because he came to understand the love of God in Christ Jesus!

KEY 2 – God’s love for us is not based on our worthiness—but His. May you come to understand and receive it.

Ephesians 3:16–19 (Emphasis Mine)

16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the **love** of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

5) MERCY & GRACE

I posit that we all have an abiding need for mercy and grace. We long for pardon when we commit some wrong, desiring for others to show us favor in our moments of weakness. No one wants to be partnered with one who is merciless or graceless against our foibles! Such a person wouldn't have many friends indeed.

KEY – Those who long for mercy and grace need look no further than Christ Jesus...

1) Christ is the Means Whereby We Find Forgiveness

1 John 1:8–2:2

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. . . .

1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

2) Christ is the Means Whereby We Make Peace w/ God

Romans 5:1–2

1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace [i.e., harmony; oneness] with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

3) Christ is the Means Whereby We Experience the Grace (i.e., Blessing) of God

2 Peter 1:3 (Emphasis Mine)

3 His divine power has given us **everything we need** for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

Q1. Do you think you are beyond the mercy and grace of God?

Q2. Do you believe God could never pardon and use someone like you?

ILL. “Allow me to share with you (briefly) the story of a man named John Newton. In 1748, Newton was on board a slave ship called the Greyhound. The ship was in bad shape. During a violent storm, it began to fall apart and take on water. A crew member was even swept overboard.

All night long Newton tried to keep the ship from going under. In doing so, he began to think about the state of his life. He knew he had run from God, hurt others, and made a wreck out of his own situation. He recollected how many times he had openly mocked the Gospel!

Newton realized he might die in the storm. Would God still be forgiving, even after Newton had rejected Him so many times? At last, Newton recalled what his deceased mother taught him while a child: God loves to show mercy to people who feel they are beyond all hope. Newton asked for God's help and he survived the storm. But this was not the end of the story!

Newton's life was transformed. He learned to pray. He found friends who shared his faith and could help him to understand how it applied to life and living. He gave up the slave trade and stopped sailing for a living. Instead, he married and—in time—became the pastor of a small English church. He also became a songwriter (which we will touch upon shortly). In his later years he pastored a larger church in London, wherein he became active in the movement to abolish the British slave trade. When the Prime Minister appointed a committee to investigate the slave trade, Newton was a key witness. He explained the horrors of this vile industry from first-hand knowledge. His compelling testimony helped to make the slave trade—and eventually slavery—illegal.”

Perhaps you have heard of this man, John Newton, before? I know you know one of the songs he penned (AG).

6) RECOGNITION

I posit that we all crave, long for and seek recognition. Whether it is in the home, the workplace, the community, etc., we all long to hear the words, “Well done! Good job! That a boy! That a girl! etc.” it is human nature to seek the approval of others.

KEY – Those who long for true recognition and approval need look no further than Christ Jesus...

Matthew 25:14–23 (Emphasis Mine)

14 “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’ 21 His master replied, **‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’**

22 The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’ 23 His master replied, **‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’**

KEY – It is the pleasure of Christ to show His faithful-filled and faithful servants with praise and reward!

FYI – It is vital to seek the approval of God over your fellow man (i.e., as only one is enduring in nature). Note...

Matthew 6:1–2, 5, 16 (Emphasis Mine)

1 “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 . . . when you **give** to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 5 . . . when you **pray**, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 16 When you **fast**, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.”

7) HOPE

Finally, I posit that humanity—individually and collectively—longs for a sense of assurance and hope. Many live their lives wishing to believe that there is some good in store; that better days are ahead for us, our families, our nation, the world, etc.

KEY – Those who long for hope and assurance need look no further than Christ Jesus...

1) Hope for This Life

Jeremiah 29:11

11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

2) Hope for Eternal Life

John 14:1–3

1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God[a]; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

Psalms 23:6 (Emphasis Mine)

6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I **will** dwell in the house of the Lord **forever**.

3) Hope for this World (Fallen Creation)

Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14

9 “As I looked,

“thrones were set in place,
and the Ancient of Days took his seat.
His clothing was as white as snow;
the hair of his head was white like wool.

His throne was flaming with fire,
and its wheels were all ablaze.

10 A river of fire was flowing,
coming out from before him.

Thousands upon thousands attended him;
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.

The court was seated,
and the books were opened.

13 “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

CONCLUSION

KEY – We could continue on and on with this study and reach the same conclusion. Jesus is all I—we—need”...

Q1. What are you looking for that Christ does not perfectly supply?

Q2. Have you committed your life to Him by faith and commitment?

Thank you for joining us today. If you wish to give online feel free to do so at www.NewLifeBarre.org. If you wish to give in person there are offering boxes throughout the church facility. I close this service with the following blessing...

Numbers 6:24–26

24 ““The Lord bless you

and keep you;

25 the Lord make his face shine on you

and be gracious to you;

26 the Lord turn his face toward you

and give you peace.”’