A Lacking Necessity

Good morning, everyone. Welcome to "Try Jesus!" If this is your first time joining us, it’s great to have you with us. I would like to thank all the new members for joining "Try Jesus."

I would also like to welcome those in Kansas, Florida, North Carolina, Texas, Ohio, and Georgia. It is a pleasure to have you with us today. The Lord continues to expand his word!

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD."  (Psalm 122:1 KJV). The Lord is indescribable and uncontainable. We gather to seek him above all today. He is an amazing God!

Praise God for the immediate response about his living gifts to us. Thank you, Lord, for giving all parents a new desire to draw their children to a closer relationship with you. Last week's message gave hope to those without answers.

We serve a God who understands every little minor detail that affects us and our children. Spiritual awakening causes us to see all things according to how God moves through our lives and the lives of those we love.

Staying in his word is crucial when the storms of life try to deplete our trust in him. Let's welcome the one who alone brings calm, stillness, and peace to our hearts and minds. He fills us with indescribable unspeakable joy. Yes Lord!

"Heavenly Father, thank you once again for your never-failing hand of watching over us and supplying every need that was before our hearts and minds. Thank you for restoring our children's trust in you.

Lord, thank you for giving renewed purpose throughout homes across this nation. Thank you for showing us how to daily walk and live in your spiritual armor to defeat the enemy. Thank you, Jesus, for calming all our fears.

Thank you Lord, for giving us your Holy Spirit to assure us of your strength when we feel weak. Thank you, Lord, for delivering us from troubles that seek to shake our foundational trust in you. Thank you, Lord, for victory over sin.

Father, thank you for continuing to draw more hearts each week to "Try Jesus" ministry. Thank you, Lord, for those who are new babes and are hungry for more manna today. Show them how to have more of you and less of the world.

I thank you Father for the good seed of your word that has taken deep spiritual root in the hearts of those who love you above all others. May your word today restore broken marriages. Holy Spirit, speak to hurting hearts today.

Father, bring small groups and large groups, friends and families who are searching for the answers in false religions and teachings to your living words that set them free. Only your word can break counterfeit teaching.

Lord, as your word is carried to every awaiting heart, show them how to be complete and never needing anything outside of you. Lord, today, you are our all in all, in your glorious name we pray, Amen."

How many of you have ever felt like your accomplishments were totally on point until someone showed up and found there were some less than adequate deficiencies in your project? We may think it's no big deal.

But when it seems to burst your intellectual bubble, how do you react?
I'm still trying to keep up with the "Generation Z and Generation A" language. (Smile). Is it ok to use the word bubble? Oh well, let's move on.

I can probably count in my life before I came to know the Lord and after I grew in his grace that there was always something that needed tweaked in my life. I think we all want things to go according to plan.

We love to have all our "Ducks-in-a-row" when presenting something or ourselves to those who may offer a gentle or outright critical critique of what we present to them. I experienced this many times throughout my school

I can remember bringing home school projects and asking my siblings if they thought they were ok. Sometimes we have to think about who it is we are asking to critique something we want to show them.

How bad do you think passive aggressive behavior in someone can be? Can you notice it immediately? Some signs of this behavior are evading issues, offering patronizing language, making wistful comments and moodiness.

A person's indirect refusal to present truthful analogy of certain topics could be construed as passive behavior. Along with obvious emotions like silent treatments, sarcasm, and backhanded compliments.

Have you ever had friends that told you only what they thought you wanted to hear? What about the words of truth that should come out when the wife asks her husband, "Honey, does this dress make me look bigger?" Uhh, be careful guys.

But remember my friends, there are times in our lives when we need the loving wounding words of a friend. Let's look at some of these words in God's love letter to us. We always need his truth, which sets us free, Amen?

Please read his living breathing words into your spirit or for your study group. 5} "Open rebuke is better than secret love. 6} Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." (Proverbs 27:5-6 KJV).

[Who would prefer a friend’s wounds to an enemy’s kisses? Anyone who considers the source. A friend who has your best interests at heart may have to give you unpleasant advice at times, but you know it is for your own good.]

How many times have you asked someone, "Hey, just be honest with me!" "Please tell me how you really feel about this situation." Honesty is always the best policy, right? A true friend won't keep his direct truth arrows in the quiver.

In contrast, a person who has self-seeking motives will always tell you what to hear so that it benefits them. It's like a poor person being friends with someone who's rich. They may be motivated to tell them things to gain favor with them.

In that scenario the person may be more of an enemy than a true friend. They might whisper sweet words and happily send you on your way to ruin. People tend to hear what they want to hear, even if an enemy is the one who says it.

This is why the church needs faithful leaders who have true motives to seek the highest good for your well-being. Here are a few passages to look at in your love letter from God. Again, God is a Spirit, so his words are for your spirit.

"Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth." (1 Corinthians 10:24 KJV). The word wealth has the meaning of "well-being." Christians are called to seek the good of others. We strive to do this in principle of love.

3} "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

4} Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." (Philippians 2:3-4 KJV). Showing genuine interest in others is a positive step forward in maintaining unity among believers.

Sometimes we find ourselves in emotional trouble when we attempt to uplift someone with (as we might think) with a sweet diatribe. Like Job's so-called friends. Do you think their words were helpful to Job?

Job's friends initially showed empathy by visiting and sitting with him in silence, but later they failed to offer genuine comfort, instead making assumptions and judging Job's suffering.

When reading the book of Job in your quiet time, focus in on how his friends started out with genuine concerns but their advice was misguided and they started to question Job's righteousness.

They then had the temerity and gall to suggest that his suffering was a consequence of his sins. This approach was not only unhelpful but also caused Job to feel even more isolated and misunderstood. Job, chapters 4-23.

How does the phrase go, "With friends like these, who needs enemies." The difference between these friends and the friendship of Jesus is something call "Agape Love." There was only "Blame" in between Job and his so-called friends.

A true friend’s words, no matter how painful, are much more valuable than superficial surface words that lack real depth and substance. When something you need is lacking, you do not have enough of it.

Let's look at one of our passages in the book of Mark. This account involves a question all of us may have thought or asked this question many times in our lives. This was no different during the time Jesus walked on the earth.

Look at (Mark 10:17). Jesus had just finished blessing many children that had gathered around him. So, here comes an adult with this question, "Good master (teacher), what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

How many times before you became a believer (born-again), think or ask questions about the "After-life?" Or maybe you asked a pastor at your church, "What happens after I die?"

Jesus never sparsed his words, but was always direct with the truth. This man came prepared with his qualifications as to why he should be allowed into heaven. (Mark 10:17-20). All his running came to an abrupt stop.

He wanted to be sure he would get eternal life, so he asked what he could do. He said he’d never once broken any of the laws Jesus mentioned (10:19). He calls Jesus good, not realizing he was acknowledging Jesus as God.

Only God is good, Amen? How many of us has ever thought our goodness alone could qualify us to enter the throne room of God? I've had people tell me they never murdered anyone, or been in an affair with someone else's spouse.

I've had people tell me they never hurt a child or lied on another person. All of these are good things to abstain from, but here's what the truth is, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23 KJV).

Some people believe the commandments are a list to be separated. They are one law (The Decalogue) packaged in ten rules. So, as told many over the years, "If you break one, you've broke them all."

Only Jesus followed the law perfectly during his time on earth. No one was capable of following the law. (Galatians 3:10-11; Romans 3:20). The law's purpose was to reveal sin, not to provide a path to righteousness or salvation.

It was a guide (tutor) for us to follow. Since Jesus fulfilled the requirements of the law, salvation and being made right with God (justification) comes through faith in Jesus Christ, not through keeping the law. (Galatians 2:16-17).

So, this man thought he could gain eternal life by keeping laws and rules. Again, I've had many individuals tell me they've been good enough to go to heaven. Today, I still offer the same response as I did back then.

"If your goodness alone is good enough for you to gain entrance into heaven, then why did Jesus have to die on the cross?" I mean if **we've** obeyed 7 out of the 10 commandments, that's a good percentage, right?

If you’re carrying a "C+" or "B" average to the gates of heaven, you should be allowed in, right? If God allowed sinful average to enter heaven, the other percentage of our failing (sin) would corrupt heaven.

So, here was Jesus' answer to the man who came excited but left disappointed.

21} "Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

22} And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions." (Mark 10:21-22 KJV). Many people who read their Bibles fail to focus on the word "loved" (agapaō), and look at the money aspect.

Jesus gave his caring answer not to hurt this man's feelings or embarrass him, he told him what he needed to hear so he good see where his treasure truly was. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21 KJV).

So, Jesus with the "Agape" approach I mentioned earlier, lovingly broke through this man’s pride with a challenge that brought out his true motives: Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor.

You see my beloved friends, sometimes we can hold onto things that can be a wedge or obstacle that keeps us from placing God first in our lives. This man had many barriers connected to his wealth. He thought he could bring it along.

The man thought he was more than qualified because of his religious status and successful living lifestyle. As some might say, "He certainly looks the part." Are there religious people today in our country who fit this profile? Think about i

Jesus was precise in explaining what the barriers were for this man. He told him, "One thing thou lackest." The word lackest in the Greek (hustereō) means to fall short. To be deficient. To come up short. To lack and suffer need.

I think about an Olympic runner coming up short in a race. Why? Because he wore his shoes on the wrong feet. He had all the necessary physical skills, but failed in only one area. Knowing this, the runner would leave disappointed.

Before we move on and close for the day, many people today, including Jesus' disciples who gathered their thoughts about Jesus' words and said, "Who then can be saved?" (Mark 10:22-27).

Many people who read this passage assume these wild things about wealth and money. There are some believers who harbor resentment, envy, and jealousy towards those who have wealth.

First, let me say, God is not against wealth. He created it. If wealth was such a big issue among his created, why did he offer it to those who loved him and were obedient to his word? Wealth in itself is not evil.

It is the "love of money" that snatches the heart away from God. Of course, the one who always hides in the shadows is the culprit, Satan himself. Remember what he offered to Jesus if he would worship him. (Matthew 4:8-9).

[If having money made it impossible to enter heaven, God would not have created it. The disciples were amazed. Was not wealth a blessing from God, a reward for being good? This misconception is still common today.]

Jesus said it was very difficult for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God because the rich, having their basic physical needs met, often become self-reliant. When they feel empty, they buy something new.

Many wealthy people try all these adventures to fill the empty void in their heart that only God can fill. Their abundance and self-sufficiency become their deficiency. It is not a sin to gain wealth.

Again, God can give wealth to anyone he chooses. God gave wealth to Abraham, Job, Joseph, David, Solomon, and many others. But notice, John the Baptist spent his time out in the wilderness. Wealth is not a sign of faith.

It is not partiality on God’s part. Faith does not guarantee that we’ll be wealthy, nor does it indicate that God plays favorites. Remember my beloved friends, if God ask you to give up something, you are not losing anything.

You never lose anything when taking up your cross (as Jesus mentioned to the wealthy man and his disciples), you gain everything. You don't become poor, but rich in God. These might seem impossible to many, but not God.

Yes, a camel going through the eye of a needle is an impossible task. But we are God's greatest creation. Jesus came and died for us. He shed his sinless blood for us. He did not die for camels or needles.

So beloved, God can provide a miracle for us to pass through the needle. Just as he provided the miracle for the Israelites to pass through the red sea. Nothing is impossible with God.

"And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible." (Mark 10:27 KJV). Many people have left all to surrender their life to following Jesus. (Mark 10:29-31).

The rich man walked away from Jesus for prosperity, popularity, power, pleasure, and prestige. Jesus was loving this man enough so he could see life in taking up his cross and following Jesus from an eternal perspective.

🗣📢 Last words: Remember everyone, the man was given a choice. Do any of you think Jesus asked to much of this man? Do you think his words were too demanding or harsh? Again, Jesus had great love for him.

Wounds from those who sincerely love you can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses. Do you think the kiss of Judas benefited Jesus? We should trust the words of sincere friends, even when they are difficult to hear.

In your quiet time of devotion and reading, check out these other encouraging passages. (Proverbs 10:19; 12:18; 15:1). The rich man had exterior religious greatness outwardly. But he was bankrupt spiritually.

It's possible to lack many things in life. Somethings can be missing or absent. Your marriage could be lacking affirmation. When something is missing, it means there's a void, it is non-existent, unavailable, deficient or inadequate.

The wealthy man thought he had every religious box checked off and wanted Jesus to grade it. But in reality, the man was spiritually broke, spiritually depleted, spiritually destitute, spiritually exhausted, and spiritually impoverished.

Again, Jesus wanted him to believe that he could offer him the living richness of God's Spirit. (John 7:37-39; Isaiah 55:1-2; Revelation 22:17). Jesus was offering the wealthy man his deep satisfying love.

Remember beloved friends, the words of Jesus are for your spirit. The flesh profits nothing. (John 4:24; 6:63; Romans 8:1-9; 2 Corinthians 3:5-6). The religious carnal mind is opposed to God and cannot please him.

The words that Jesus speaks to us are spirit and life. Religion (The law) cannot offer what the Holy Spirit can give you. Human effort or the physical world (material wealth) cannot fill your spirit. Relying on human logic alone will always fail.

Following Jesus means never being depleted of resources. You simply lack nothing with Jesus. How do I know? Please read these powerful words of David that most people have read into your spirit.

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1 KJV). The word "want" in the Hebrew language means to lack, the implication is to not lack, be without, decrease, be lacking, or have a need. (Philippians 4:19).

David was a shepherd and new his sheep needed provision, guidance, and protection. Jesus is our great shepherd and always takes care of his sheep. (John 10:11-12; Hebrews 13:20; 1 Peter 5:4).

Finally, we've all heard the words "You can't take it with you." That pertains to the day of your death. Your home, valuables, even your children, you shall leave this earth empty-handed. But you don't have too.

Come to Jesus today and commit all that you have to him, turn from sin, and surrender your heart to him. Then, you too can speak these words to the world.
"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:20-21 KJV).

The people of Israel never lacked when making their way through the wilderness. Please read these living passages into your spirit and those in your household this week.

(Nehemiah 9:20-21; Psalm 34:8-10; Proverbs 28:27; Jeremiah 23:3-4; Hosea 4:6; Matthew 19:20-21; Acts 4:31-35; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12; James 1:5-8). You lack nothing when you place Jesus on the throne of your heart.

I know there are people who do not have a living relationship with Jesus, but they visit and click on to "Try Jesus" each week. Why do you continue to walk in spiritual desolation? You no longer have to live in spiritual bankruptcy.

The necessities you are longing for in life cannot come from the world or religion but from the one who can fill the lack in your life. "Come get some abundance in your life, stop living in lack!" (John 10:10).

🛐 Here’s a prayer you can pray to be set free from lacking. "Heavenly Father, thank you for today's arising word to my lacking spirit. Thank you, Lord, for showing me that I came into this world empty-handed and will leave the same w

Lord, I surrender the hold that material things have held over me and give them into your capable hands. I thank you for giving me what I need over my desires of want. Help me to trust in your care for me and my family.

Help me to trust only your guidance and provision, knowing I shall not lack. Jesus, thank you for being my good Shepherd. Lord, I welcome your leadership and sovereignty in my life. Thank you for restoring my soul for you.

Thank you for bringing peace and abundance of joy to my life, instead of unrest and hopelessness. Thank you, Lord, for bringing hope into all my tomorrows. Father, your protection and shield surround me continually.

In you Jesus, I never have to fear of being left alone in the wilderness of life. I never have to fear what the world can do to me. Thank you for the goodness and love you always supply me with.

You are my refuge and hope all the day long. In you alone I find rest and peace. I praise you for the assurance that I will dwell with you forever. You will take care of me from the womb to the tomb, in your capable hands I pray, Amen."

❤ "If you would like to know Jesus as your Savior, please read the drop-down page entitled "How to know Jesus."

📣 Help spread the word by sharing this web site and messages on your platform.

🙏 Please remember to pray for the people in Israel. They are God's people because of his covenant promises to them. (Genesis 12:1-3; Numbers 6:22-27; 24:8-9). ✝️

☎️ Prayer Line- Text line- 412-616-3572