

# Garden Party

Real Men Tend to their Garden when no one is watching...

Matt. 14: 22-23 (NIV) Jesus Prays ( after feeding the 5000 and before walking on water...)

<sup>20</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>21</sup> The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

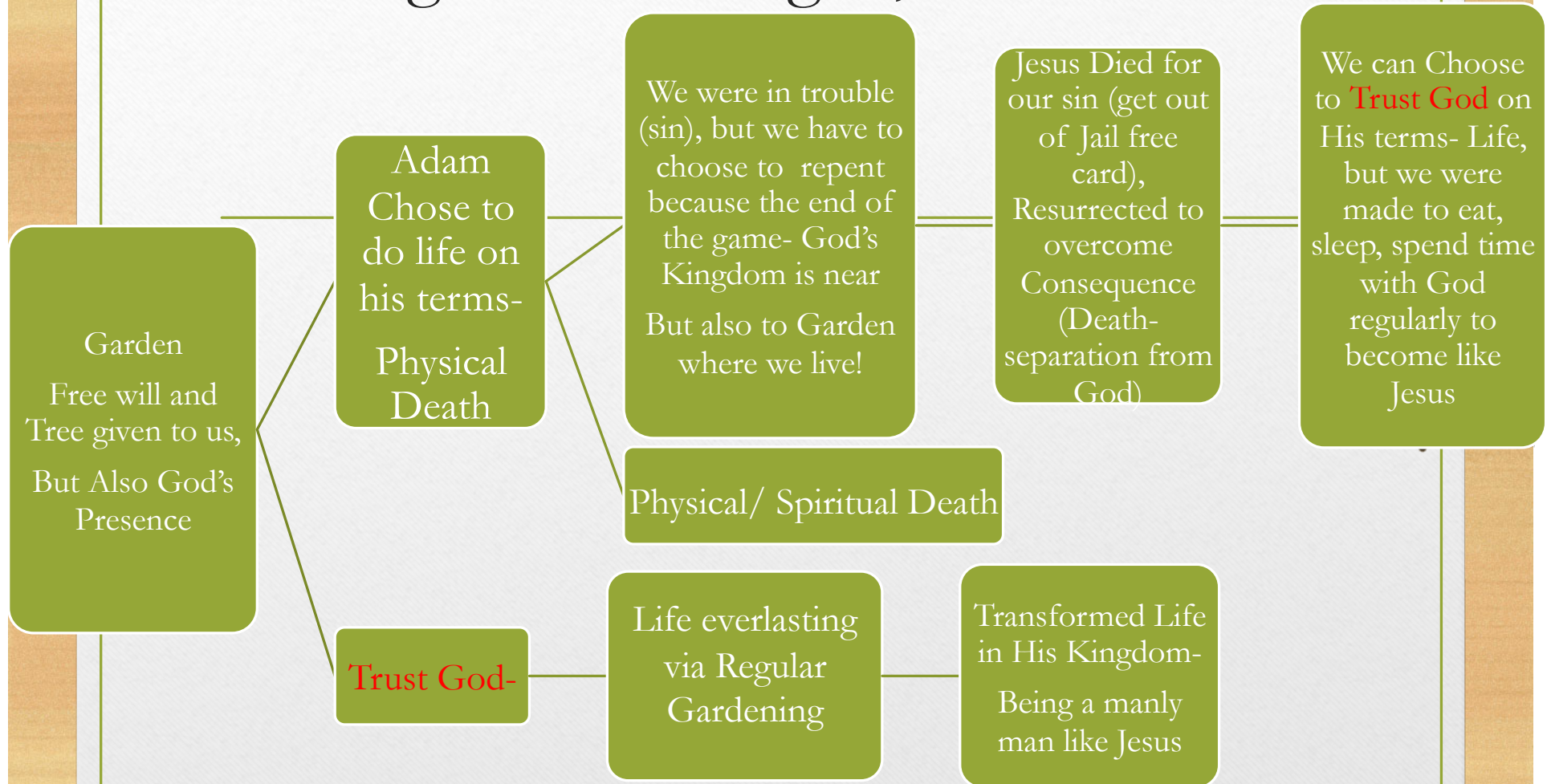
<sup>22</sup> *Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.* <sup>23</sup> *After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone,* <sup>24</sup> and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.



## Scripture:

- Jesus Prays ( after feeding the 5000 and before walking on water...)
- As Pastor Eva mentioned last week, this story is one of the few stories in all 4 gospels. John's version gives some insight to what was going on...
- **John 6:15** ( John's version of the feeding of 5000)
- <sup>14</sup> After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." <sup>15</sup> **Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.**

# Gardening where it began, ends and is now



# The Bridge to the New Heaven & New Garden

- Engineers Solve Problems! They have to see the problem solved and work backwards, counting the costs...
- God needed a bridge to Man... His image bearer who he wanted to rule over his creation.
- He solved the problem... Not in a way we might choose.
- He didn't just make us puppets, He built a very expensive bridge, that if we chose to cross by faith, we gain life. If we chose not to, we may not even realize that our life was given to us, we might think we make it on our own merits. (Like the Pharisees)



## God Created you for a purpose.

*Luke 10:27 He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' "*

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*If God is Love, and we are his children, then Love is not just something we should do, but who we are becoming! Don't just try and do better, cross the bridge to become better, and help others do the same! New heaven starts when we cross the bridge, not when we get to the other side. Becoming Love requires Time with Love...God.*

# What is Individual Prayer for?

God knows our heart, needs, thoughts-why Pray?

We are not puppets.  
Abraham Maslow (a Brandeis professor in the 50's and 60's) was world renown because unlike Freud and other Psychologists who were looking at what was wrong with people, Maslow looked at what was right. As Christians we have someone to look up to who did it right...  
His Name is Jesus.



Prayer-  
Becoming a  
healthy image  
bearer- it  
helps us with  
our needs,  
like sleep... we  
need it to  
thrive.



According to Maslow- The basic needs we have as People are seen in a hierarchy- if you have these, you will tend to be Healthy



## Being Fully Human requires regular rest in our Source

What does Thriving look like...? We understand the Spiritual through the Physical.

Being Wireless is great (God is always broadcasting(5+ bars), we are the one's who go into airplane mode are only using our phones to play games, but like with a phone, we must get recharged... Physical recharging is sleep.

Spiritual recharging is prayer...

It is not what we do, but what God  
does through us.



- Once we know who we are, What Christ has done, and where we are headed, We can impact the world, not because of how great we are, but how Great God is in us.

# Meek Giants

- Gentleness is a fruit of the Spirit... But it would be better stated meekness in our current culture. We think of gentle as something soft. Jesus was not soft, he was less Gentle than forthright. He was a giant who chose to restrain his strength... How strong are you? Being weak is different than having true swag that comes from spending time with the creator of the universe. Jesus refused to be king on the people's terms... like David refused to kill Saul. Then he spent time alone, then walked back to his purpose, his people on WATER! We need to have boldness to say what God has us to say to others- Like you feed them, you of little faith, and this was to his friends!



# What Prayer Looks like

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- Walking individually with God- (What Adam and Jesus did) Using Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication as basic ingredients.
- It should be outside one's head... verbal, written, something... Communication Transforms us- the speaker, not just the hearers! Faith comes by hearing and hearing by God's words...When we hear ourselves say things God would say, we are changed.

# Garden Party Prayers ARE:

1. Are God Centered- You are my source not some tree, it's not a pity party about what I think about my problems, but what does God want to say about them.
2. Fulfilling and fun... The joy we share as we tarry there...
3. Natural... Time with Dad should not be forced or uncomfortable.
4. Listen to What God is saying... the still small voice.
5. Biblical- Our grounding to make sure we aren't doing things on our terms or having indigestion...
6. Temporary/regular... Like a charge, we were meant to use what we get once we get it, not merely be navel gazing, but put it into practice. Also a good prayer time won't last for 6 weeks...
7. Inspiring, like with David... The Psalms came out of his Garden parties.
8. Swag developing... Like Driving a car...or walking on water.
9. Equipping for Harvest... The Garden is for beauty and purpose, but also for eating!

## Garden Party Prayers ARE NOT:

1. Satan Bashing, or enemy bashing times. Michael knew better than attack Satan, and said the Lord rebuke you..
2. Taking Land sessions or discipline others... These are done outside the Garden! Like with Joshua prayed, Jesus had him get up and act on the plan. (Josh 5:13ff). ~~Jesus disciplined, his disciples on the strength of those Garden parties.~~
3. Not busy or stressful- Like Mary not like Martha- getting the good part...
4. Here is my list Lord... I need these things to get your will done. His Kingdom come is key, how and when are as important as what... You can't please everyone, so you gotta please the Son!
5. Getting excited about People's ideas about you or Miracles, but excited about God... Jesus did not get bent out of shape about walking on water... I want to get there! Not to be a hearse chaser, but to chase after God's will of His people, and if that includes raising some folks from the dead, to be it!
6. A 5 minute rote devotional time that can be used as a check list.
7. A time of talking without listening- active listening which often requires having questions, and SEEKING answers.

# Garden partiers!

In your groups:

1. Go around and give your name, and mention a good conversation you had with someone in the past 5 years and what made it memorable...
2. What hinders you from being like Daniel- regular in your real time with God? How can we overcome those things realistically without figs. What things drain our power? How can we get connected regularly to get recharged...
3. If Jesus was really the first normal human, then those who look like him will seem miracles (superhuman) to the rest of the world, those with powers unleashed by our maker, and empowered by remaining close to him. What do you see your superpower to be? Do you see some of the special skills you may have? What is He revealing about how He sees you?

# Garden partiers!

4. What real Questions do you have (and are willing to share), that you really need God to answer, or at least speak to? My example: Lord why has my current situation been so hard, so painful, so disappointing for so long? What I feel was his reply... My child dissonance is the exercise for spiritual muscles. Transformation comes from riding a bicycle backwards- what you are called to do as my child- to go against the world's view ( an example I got from NPR's Science Fridays where a you tube science teacher learned to ride a bicycle that steers in the opposite way took 8 months to learn, his 5 year old son took 2 weeks). A healthy system has plenty of sharks, predators, if we swim with him, we will be safe, as a shepherd protects the sheep from wolves. Breakthrough is coming, Rev. 3 Philly Church is coming, Confirmation (one of my requests) is coming. In the meantime feel my presence, hear my voice, eat my food of life, and get the electrolytes you need for your muscles to recover from being stretched. Ski-boots are on but you are about to take them off, be prepared to fly, or at least feel like your feet are floating.
5. What would a fully mature you look like, One who is in tune with God's will? How can garden times make us more like Christ?