

# DESPERATE FOR MORE

ser3990 Alone in the Room, Pt 4

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Good morning everyone! Here we are almost through our November series. You know what that means? Christmas is right around the corner. I love the Christmas season! I don't know about you, but I think we need the Christmas spirit this year more than ever. Can I get an Amen?

I am excited to continue with the series "Alone in the Room." As I was preparing this message, I was reminded of a night when I wasn't alone in the room, but I sure felt like I was because of the craziness going on all around me and yet I couldn't seem to find the help I needed.

Have you ever felt like that when you needed help with something but the whole world has gone mad?

We were in Buffalo, NY for the wedding of John's brother, Kevin. John and I were newly married. We were staying a hotel. We had dinner with the family, and we went to bed rather early because we were exhausted.

The next morning, at about 2 am, I was awakened by John. As some of you know, John has diabetes and he sometimes has insulin reactions when his blood sugar drops. There are times when his sugar is about to drop, and he acts like a drunk person. When he acts like that, I know the insulin reaction is coming next.

On this night John woke up and was acting more strange than usual. I asked him if he was okay and he said he was. I asked him, "Okay what's my name?" In a very loud voice, he said "JANAE NAE." I told him to stop and again asked him what my name is. Again, he said, "JANAE NAE." I told him my name is Gina. Once more I asked him my name and once more, he answered, "JANAE NAE." By then, I knew he was not kidding. He was acting drunk because his sugar was low.

We didn't have any candy or drinks in the room, so I started to panic. I needed sugar so I ran into the hallway of the hotel, thinking there had to be a vending machine somewhere but I couldn't find one. The hotel elevator opened just then and out came John's entire family, except for Kevin and Alaina who were getting married the next day.

John, as you may know, has a big family. They came piling out of the elevator and I heard them all singing this song. (Play "Hot Hot Hot" by Buster Poindexter). "Hot Hot Hot, Ole Ole, Hot Hot Hot" and they were doing a conga line down the hallway!

I was wearing my PJs and they were trying to pull me into the conga line. They were all completely drunk...every last one of them! I told them I needed someone to help me! I needed to get John sugar! No one cared. The conga line was more important at the moment.

I was in a panic! Talk about being alone in a room and desperately needing help! I ran onto the elevator, ran onto another floor and I got a Coke out of a vending machine.

Back in our room, I said, “JANAE NAE’S back! Drink this Coke, Honey.” And ALL was well, Praise God! I wasn’t alone in the room, but I was alone in the conga line!

So, we continue our series, *Alone in the Room*. The title of our message today is “Desperate for More”

Let us pray....

I have never liked the word desperate. When I was a teenager, my mom would always tell my sister and me that we should never call boys. We needed to let them call us or we could look desperate and we had too much pride to ever look desperate.

We even took it a step further. We had an old-fashioned phone in our bedroom. You know, it had a cord that plugged into the wall! We could be waiting all day for a certain boy to call us, but when the phone rang, we would never answer the phone on the first ring. We would wait ‘til the 3<sup>rd</sup> ring to answer it. Like we were busy, but we were really sitting right next to the phone. We couldn’t look desperate now, could we?

Let’s look at the definition of desperate.

*(Slide1)*

Desperate: Having an urgent need, a desire that is very serious.

Ok, when you put it like that, I can honestly say I am desperate for more. More of Jesus that is!

We, as people, have an unquenchable thirst for more. More peace, more joy, more money, more love, more, more, more. But let's face the cold hard reality of life. The more we get, the more we want. It's an endless cycle.

If I were to ask you today, what are you desperate for, you may give me one of the following answers:

"I am desperate for peace."

"I am desperate for my anxiety to leave me."

"I am desperate for purpose."

"I am desperate for love."

You may not know this, but what you really are desperate for is JESUS. Only Jesus can fill the needs we have for peace joy and purpose!

Are you desperate for Jesus?

Ask yourself this question today. Do you have an urgent need and deep desire to know God? Or are you okay with a causal relationship with Jesus so long as He's there when you need Him? Hard question to ask ourselves, isn't it?

Are you willing to search for God with all of your heart no matter how much it costs you? Because it will cost you. In **Matthew 6:24**, Jesus says *"Pick up your cross and follow Me."* Are you ready to do that?

Let's look at one of my favorite stories in the Bible. This story is about a woman who was desperate for more! She wanted more of Jesus and she didn't care what anyone else thought of her.

*(Slide 2)* **Luke 7:36- 50** Jesus anointed by a Sinful Woman.

**Luke 7:36-38** *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.*

Let's take a look at this woman. What do we know about her? She lived a sinful life and was known for it. She had an alabaster jar of perfume which was very expensive. It may have been her most valuable possession. She needed to be next to Jesus. She needed to give him her most valuable possession!

Why was she weeping? Why did she bring the alabaster jar with her? Was it to earn Jesus' love? Maybe? Maybe not. We will come back to that.

Let's see what is said about her.

*(Slide 3)* **Luke 7:39** *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.”*

This woman is the lowest of society in the Pharisee’s eyes. These people were appalled that she had the audacity to crash their little political dinner party. These men had an agenda.

She was messing everything up for them. They wanted Jesus attention, not because they cared about him, but because they cared about what He could do for them. They were desperate for more alright, more power and Jesus was the way to gain it.

Now this sinful woman is getting Jesus’ attention. Why is she even there? She wasn’t invited. How dare she show her face at a dinner for Jesus? Doesn’t she know her place? She is only invited into the dark, secret places of their lives.

But you see she is desperate for Jesus. She will get to Jesus at all costs! This is what desperation does to us.

I’m sure she was known as a desperate woman. Desperate for acceptance? Desperate for money? Desperate for Love. People do crazy things when they are desperate.

Desperate for the pain to go away, we take drugs. Desperate for the anxiety to go away, we drink and we drink until we can’t feel it anymore. The problem is, we wake up and it’s worse than ever.

She was desperate, for sure. But Jesus looked into her desperate, lonely heart and He loved her; not because of anything she'd done or even in spite of everything she'd done. He loved her simply because she is a child of God. She is God's precious daughter. Jesus knew her value and now she was going to know it as well.

Family of God, there is only one person who can fill our desperate need and will let us know our true identity. Sons and daughters of the Most High God, that person is Jesus.

Think about how that sinful woman must have felt, crashing this dinner party. The room was filled with men who know her well. Well, they knew who she used to be. But she didn't care about them anymore. They couldn't stop her from getting to Jesus. She wasn't intimidated by them.

Stop being intimidated by your past mistakes. Own them and use them for God's Glory!

She brought an alabaster jar with her, so she was intent on giving Jesus a gift, her most valuable possession. But why? Did she want to earn Jesus love? Did she feel so ashamed that maybe if she brought this gift it could somehow lift her shame?

Shame is a hard thing to live with. It can get so bad that some people can't live with it. Some of you know that shame. You really messed up more than once. You promised you wouldn't drink or use drugs again. You promised people who love you and believe in you and you fell short again

The shame you feel makes you want to run from God, but maybe if you do some good stuff it will make you right with God again?

Maybe if you bring Jesus your alabaster jar of perfume it will make up for the bad things you've done? After all, perfume can cover up the bad smell of shame and sin. It makes sense, but I don't think she was trying to earn God's love. I don't think she would have had the courage to crash a dinner party filled with men who looked down on her if she still had the shame attached to her.

Shame holds us down. It's one of Satan's biggest weapons against us.

There is a quote I love by singer and writer Sheila Wash.

*(Slide 4)* "Guilt tells us that we've done something wrong, Shame tells us we are something wrong" Sheila Wash

God tells us we are created in His image. How can we be something wrong?

Let me say that again. God tells us we are created in HIS image. How can we be something wrong?

If shame were still attached to this woman, she wouldn't have had the courage or the audacity to crash this political dinner party for Jesus. She wanted to be close to Jesus. It's that simple. No shame, no guilt, just Jesus!

Let's look at the next verse and the end of the story and it will confirm her *WHY*. *WHY* she was there giving Jesus her most expensive possession, the alabaster jar of perfume.

*(Slide 5) Luke 7:40-50 Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me teacher" he said. 41) "Two people owed money to a certain money lender. 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 and you did not give me any water for my feet. 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."*

It's all so clear. Can you see it? This woman who walked into a room filled with judgmental eyes on her ignored every last one of them.

She anointed Jesus with her jar of perfume, washed his feet with her tears and dried them with her hair because she

knew what it felt like to be alone in a room filled with nothing but shame and fear.

Now shame and fear were no longer attached to her!!!

She stood behind Jesus because when we put Jesus in front of us, we become strong and we can overcome anything. He goes before us and He alone gives us the victory!

She was forgiven and she was set free because shame is not who she is anymore. No one and nothing could stop her from getting to Jesus and being in His presence.

Her *WHY* was love and gratitude.

She gave him the alabaster jar, her most treasured and expensive possession, to THANK HIM for setting her FREE! She was free! Are you free today? You can be!

She was desperate for Jesus because everything changes in the presence of Jesus!

Fear has to leave! Insecurity has to leave! Shame and guilt have no power over us!

We all sin and fall short of the Glory of God, but we get back up, we burst into a room of angry people who want to keep us down, and what do we do? WE LOVE!

We love Jesus and He sends all of our demons right back to hell where they belong! And we are set free!!!

I love to share God stories with you when I preach a message, I have so many God stories collected over the years. Today I am going to share someone else's God story, because I think it's just so awesome! Of course, I got her permission first. It's a God story about one of my friends. You all know her; she runs our addiction recovery ministry here called Chain Breakers.

*(Slide 6, picture of Angelina)*

When I first met Angelina, we talked over coffee at Starbucks and I could see right away that she is a woman who loves God and has an anointing on her life.

I asked her if she could do a testimonial truth for us at GCCC. She said yes and wrote out her testimony. Before we did the video, Angelina shared with me that she wasn't sure how much to share about her testimony because of her battle with drug addiction. She said she was on a reality TV show and it was very graphic as it told the story of how she hit rock bottom.

I remember thinking how she had the Holy Spirit so bright inside her and how amazing and how beautiful she was and how God completely restored her to beauty and health. That's what I saw and that's what I thought.

But she remembered the shame she'd felt and she was new to our church.

She said she wasn't sure she wanted the whole church knowing all the details that happened to her during her addiction. She felt some kind of shame. Satan was trying his best to keep her story away from people who needed it. She said she didn't know what the church would think of her.

As you know, she gained the courage to share her whole testimony which of you have seen. And, we didn't have any Pharisees here at the church! You welcomed her with open arms, as you I knew you would.

I can't help but think that if she had let the enemy stop her by using shame and guilt and the opinions of others to keep her from sharing her story, just how so many lives would not have been changed and saved.

Angelina said, "I want God to receive all the glory. I can't worry about what people think of me." To that I say, "You go, Girlfriend!"

Now Angelina leads our addiction recovery ministry, called Chain Breakers and she is helping others overcome shame, guilt, and addiction! Jesus is breaking the chains of addiction through Angelina and her alabaster jar for Jesus!

God is using her to lead so many others into a relationship with Jesus! God is doing miracles through her!

We can do that too, Family Church. Let go of the shame. It has no place in the kingdom of God! Fight back and ask God to help you to let it go!

The woman with the alabaster jar walked into a room and she only saw Jesus. She was alone in the room with Jesus, the Son of the Most High God! She felt a different kind of love that day, a love that changed her life! Are you ready for a love that can only come when you are desperate for Jesus?

*(Slide 7) What is your alabaster jar for Jesus?*

Jesus is waiting for you! (Rev 3:20) It can start with a simple prayer. It's as easy as ABC....

**A. Admit** you are a sinner.

**B. Believe** God gave his only Son to die on a cross, to be your Lord and Savior.

**C. Commit** your life to Jesus Christ.

Please say this prayer with me...

Dear God, thank you for loving me. I am sorry for my sins, past, present, and futures sins. Jesus please come and live inside my heart and be my Lord and personal savior. I commit my life to you. Holy Spirit, please fill me with Yourself and help me live my life for Jesus Christ. In Jesus name I pray! Amen.

If you've said this prayer today, you are born-again and you have made the best decision you will ever make in your entire life!