

When Chains Deliver - June 28, 2026

Pastor Carla This past month or so, the Lord has been stirring a word in me. That was a word for me. It was something that he gave to me, something that I needed to work on, something that I needed to do. And I, I began to write, and I began to pray. And I began to read his word. And. And through this, he began to develop some of what I will share tonight. And then the remainder of it that I studied this week and in the midst of this month of the Lord, stirring this in me. My husband and I never conversed about it. I never told him about it. I never I never mentioned it to him. We we have a lot of conversations at home, but I can tell you that everything that happens behind this pulpit is purely from the Holy Spirit. It's not something that we contrive. It's not, hey, you're going to speak on that this week and then the next week it's going to be this. No, he didn't even know I was working on this. And he said, hey, I need you to speak on this Sunday, June twenty eighth. And it just so beautifully lined up with everything that the Lord had ordained from last week to this without anything having to be written out and planned like a lesson plan, like I absolutely love. Do y'all need some chairs? George, I need you to get a chair. We need some chairs. Where's where's my father in law? God. Thank you'd. We have some chairs in the back. We do have space up here, but they might want to be back there. How are you doing that? Just walked in. I'm glad you're here. I'm Carla. I don't know if we've. I don't know if we've met before, but. Landon. Wow. Okay. Yeah. All right. Anyway, so, you know, I just waited. I knew that the Lord had me writing this and I, I just waited, and I trusted his timing. The husband is the leader of our household. He is our covering. I honor him not only as my pastor but also as my husband. He is the spiritual covering of our home. And so I knew that I trusted him. And just watching how the Lord ordained this was so beautiful. Last Sunday, my husband continued the message invitation to glorification with letting us know what it is in our lives that needs to be refined so that glorification isn't blocked in our life. And boy, it was a powerful Sunday. The altar was filled with people who said, I want my life to be refined. I need the Lord to heal me of offense, to uproot bitterness, to take out the things in the soil of my heart that might be blocking me from knowing him. And then here we are this week. The Lord has been stirring this on me. In me, and I mean on me and in me. Because. Tonight we're going to talk about something else that could block our invitation to glorification with Christ. We're going to talk about comfort. Yeah. We're going to talk about how comfort can stunt our spiritual growth and how comfort keeps us in the place where we are. And our depth of maturity never deepens because we like where we are. Yeah. So last week we got rid of a fence, whether it had been justified offense because we were hurt and things were really justified because someone hurt us. We learned that offense filters how we see ourselves, how we see others, and we allow the Lord to heal us and we ask for forgiveness. And it wasn't a comfortable message. And I will say that this message will be the same because transformation isn't comfortable. It's not. There is nothing in our lives that he stretches, purifies, refines that isn't uncomfortable. And when we sit back in our comfort and I and I'll tell you this, I had come from a two year period in my life where I was so hyper focused on asking the Lord and praying for this certain thing to be a breakthrough, that when I receive the breakthrough, I didn't realize that I sat back in my comfort and actually drew me back from his feet. And I recognized what's drawing me there is what's making me uncomfortable. Yeah. And I learned that in my vulnerability. In my recognizing that I was comfortable and I was drawing away from

his feet, I recognized. Lord, forgive me for sitting back in my fleshly comfort, for I know that vulnerability is the vehicle that travels on the road of discomfort. And transformation is my destination. Yeah. But sometimes it can be so hard. That is the culture of Mark two twenty two. It's an uncomfortable place. Aren't you comforted to know that we don't want you to stay the same? We don't desire you to stay the same. We want to see the wineskin stretching. We want to see the tent pegs reaching out. We want to see that you are vessels to receive the new wine, and that takes a little bit of vulnerability. Traveling down the road of discomfort so that you can be transformed. Yeah. We're going to deal with comfort tonight in Western America. Things are comfortable. Yeah, yeah. I've been watching these reels and these videos on people that have come over from other countries and tasted our food for this soccer thing that my husband just continuously watches. And, and people have come to recognize how much we have in America and how blessed we are. And it is easy for us to be comfortable. We don't want to be vulnerable. We don't want to face the things that would make us uncomfortable so that we can grow in him. Ooh, there's a screamer. And so in this past month, the Lord has been teaching me not just through words on a page, but he's been teaching me experientially, walking through challenges, walking through difficulties. How many of you know it's very different to read the words for God so loved the world, yet to come to the altar and to know, for God so loved the world and to be hit wave after wave after wave with his love. Experientially, I was learning that what was making me uncomfortable was driving me to his feet and stretching me to grow. And so I wrote this statement. This is where everything began. If I never step into being uncomfortable, I will never lean into the comforter. And if the comforter leads me into all truth concerning Jesus Christ, then I cannot fully learn who he is while remaining in my comfort zone. Comfort can keep us from growing. Comfort can keep us from responding. Comfort can keep us from reaching out. Yet God so lovingly. He allows the seasons of crushing, of pressing, of emptying of the full vessels because full vessels rarely seek to be filled. And so he allows us to be empty. There it is. There are things that you will learn about God in the uncomfortable season that comfort could never teach you, and it is challenging to get out of your comfort zone. I remember having my three children very young, not sleeping much at night. Y'all know how that goes. Having that alarm go off at five thirty in the morning to spend time with Jesus, and it would have been much more comfortable to continue to lay in that bed. But in that moment, or in those many moments where I chose to get up, the Lord revealed himself to me in such a way that I learned who he was outside of my comfort zone. So last week, Kevin talked about seeds and he talked about the parable of the sower. Hale got that ringing. And as I was. It's really strange, the things that you can find on Google. I just started looking up seeds and, and learning about them. And I really don't know why I found this species of a eucalyptus plant. I know it's got this seed that it only opens in extreme heat or fire. They're called pyro fights. They are in a category of fire loving plants because the fire doesn't destroy them. It allows what is inside of them to come out. And what comes out is life. And I pray that we become a people that are like that, because disciples don't run from God's refining fire. They produce life. And so we are able to stand in the fire, knowing that what is going to come out on the other side is much better than what we are walking in. Amen. Sermons that cut produce transformation and sermons that pierce produce disciples. So in the same way that we stand in the fire, what we're going through in life, sometimes there are words shared from a pulpit that can make us come to A recognition that there is life or

something inside of us, that God is ready to burst out of us. I pray that we become a people, that the garden of our life is so on fire, that those little foxes that run in to spoil the vine, they just get burned up while there's other pastors putting bows on the foxes that become our pets and they become our identity. I pray that we become a people who are pirates, who say we love the fire, burn up whatever is inside of us. Refine in me. Lord, I know that being comfortable isn't where I learn of who you are. So Lord, refine me. Cause me to go into the extreme heat and the fire so that I can come out on the other side, not even smelling like smoke and not even recognized by the people around me, because the transformation has been that deep. Amen. Amen. We're going to talk about comfort tonight and we begin in the book of Philippians chapter one. We were here last week a little bit. Paul is the writer of Philippians, and in this book he was in prison in Philippi. But yet this book is known as the Epistle of Joy. Yeah. So let's read Philippians chapter one, beginning in verse three. I thank my God every time I remember you in all my prayers for all of you. I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. For it is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart, and whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Christ Jesus to the glory and the praise of God. Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. And as a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear. Verse nineteen for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. Lord God, I thank you, Lord. I thank you that Mark two twenty two will be a group of people who will not stay the same, but that they will desire to be all that you have for them. Lord, I pray that we would be a people that would get excited about the uncomfortable, that we would get excited about stepping out of our comfort zones, that we would be a people who would be known that we are pirates, because we can't wait for the fire to release the life that you have inside of us. Lord, the words may cut, but we know cutting produces transformation, and we know that piercing produces disciples. So I pray, Lord God, that these words which are your words, Lord, would go forth and yield fruit. Jesus, we thank you for it. In Jesus name. Amen and Amen. The title of this message, if you're taking notes is when chains deliver. When chains deliver. We're going to talk about Paul for just a moment. Again, it's the Epistle of Joy. Remember, he's in prison. He is in a place where you would deem that there is no joy. Yet in the midst of this, while in chains, he is writing this epistle joy and chains together. It doesn't make sense to the world. There are two types of chains that I just want to clarify very quickly. There are chains that we don't choose, but we refuse to abandon our faith to escape them. They are chains like persecution and suffering, seasons of waiting, seasons of being misunderstood. So there are chains that we don't choose, but we are walking through them because we refuse to abandon our faith. Those chains become the classroom where Christ teaches us who he is. You see,

Paul never glorified his chains. He glorified Christ through his chains. And in the midst of your waiting and your persecution and your suffering, you can do the same. We just have to step out. Then there are those chains that we choose, the chains that Jesus broke at the death on the cross and the resurrection of Jesus. But we refuse to surrender. Last week we gave up the chain of offense. If you didn't hear the message, go back on to YouTube, our website. You can get that message. You can let go of offense. Pride. Pride is a chain that we choose to fear. As excuses comfort. These are the chains that keep us from Christ. They keep us from growing, and the way that we know the difference is to ask ourselves, is this chain drawing me toward Jesus, or is it keeping me away from him? That's how we know the difference. Now, keeping those things in mind about chains and about discomfort, we're going to take a small shift because the Lord continued to move me back to a parable in Luke chapter fourteen called The Great Banquet that I began to study this week. And I said, Lord, I can teach everything that you've taught me this month using Philippians chapter one. And he said to me, I know you can, but I don't want you to. And so I said, Matthew, Mark, Luke. and I began to read this parable over and over and over. And as my husband likes to say, lightning struck my brain and he began to reveal to me the transformation in this parable. So Luke chapter fourteen, beginning in verse fifteen. When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God. And Jesus replied, A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. And at the time of the banquet, he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, come, for everything is now ready. But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, I have just bought a field. I must go see it. Please excuse me. And another said, I have just bought five yoke of oxen. I'm on my way to try them out. Who ever heard of buying something and then trying it out? Please excuse me. Still another said, I just got married so I can't come. Then the servant came back and reported this to his master. And then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant go out quickly to the streets and the alleys of the town, and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame. Sir, the servant said, what you ordered has been done, but there is still room. Then the master told his servant, go out to the roads in the country lanes, and compel them to come in, so that my house is full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will taste of my banquet. In verses sixteen and seventeen we have an invitation. Come. Everything is ready. And in biblical times there was a two part invitation because there were no clocks. So weeks in advance before the banquet, they would go out and they would invite all the guests. But then the day that the banquet was ready and everything was in order, they would go out again to everyone who had already been invited, the people that already said yes to come. Because now the table is ready. See, the first invitation is saying yes, I want to learn about God. But the second invitation is the Holy Spirit saying, come. Everything is ready. Come and learn about me and know who I am. And Jesus is still doing the same thing today. He is still saying, come to my table. Come. Everything is ready. It was for that time in the Bible. Time it is for now. And it is for the future. Yes, yes. See, that's the already. Not yet. Yes, it's already. But the fulfillment is not quite yet. But it can be already. Yes. That beautiful cycle that Damon Thompson is always talking about. You don't have to wait to the other side to experience the goodness of the kingdom. He said, come, everything is ready. The kingdom is waiting. The reward is here. The goodness is here. The prize is here. Stop waiting. Just surrender now and come to the table. Yeah. In verse sixteen, it says, a certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited

many guests. And at the same time, at the time of the banquet, he sent his servant. He said, come, all is ready. So many of us today, so many in the capital C church, don't recognize that the goodness of God can be seen in the land of the living. That heaven can come down to earth in their waiting. But the prize. You can meet him now. You can come to the table. So why didn't they come? It says all alike. Another version says in one accord. In one voice, they began to make excuses. That means that it didn't matter what the excuse was. It was all the same excuse. I have a field that's possessions, I have oxen, that's responsibility. I have a marriage that's relationship. Excuses were and are the things that keep us bound to comfort. Yeah. I'm sorry. I have a field. I'm sorry I have responsibilities. I'm sorry I have these possessions. I'm sorry I have these relationships. These were excuses that were keeping them down. Don't you think there were problems in the marriage, that there were problems with the field, that there was problems with the oxen? They would rather those problems and that discomfort than the stepping out of their comfort zone to go to the table. Why? Because comfort built walls against vulnerability. You see, tables are places of fellowship. It's where you get to know someone one on one personally. And the thought of the invitation made them uncomfortable because maybe in their vulnerability they may have to, like we did last week, surrender what it is that we are so holding on to. You may have to surrender your family. You may have to surrender your relationships. You may have to surrender your possessions. You may have to surrender the responsibilities to him. But have you ever seen that picture on the internet and social media where Jesus, you know, he's got this big giant bouquet behind his back and the little girls going, I don't know if I want to give you this little bouquet. And God says, if you just give it to me, I have this huge one right here that I'm going to give to you because you think that surrender means loss. Yes, surrender may need may mean sacrifice, but sacrifice always multiplies something else in our life because we let the walls come down of comfort. And then once he burns it all the way, once the sacrifice is on the altar and it all burns away. We don't want what we had before. We don't want it. So tables are places of fellowship and they made excuses to justify their actions. You see, the banquet wasn't rejected because it lacked value. It was rejected because the chains of their comfort made them unwilling to leave. What was familiar for fellowship with the father. Sometimes the greatest obstacle to encountering Jesus is our comfort. So why, in verse twenty one, did the broken come? It says, the servant came back and reported this to his master. The owner of the house became angry and ordered his servants go out quickly to the streets and the alleys, and bring the poor, the crippled, the blind, the lame. Why did they come? Their lives were already vulnerable. They had no excuses to even make to justify not going to the table. The blind came because they knew they needed to see clearly. The crippled came because religion wasn't enough to set them free from what was crippling them. The poor came because they said, we are empty and we need to be filled. They all had a need and it drove them to the table. The invitation told them that they mattered. The reserved seat told them that they were seen. The prepared food told them that they were loved, and the poured wine told them that they were known. Yeah, they had no excuses and no comfort in the chains that they were in to choose not to sit at the table. Psalm forty two one says, as the deer pants for waters, the streams of water. So my soul pants after you. Do you know why a deer pants, a deer pants? Because it's either being chased by a predator, or there is some extreme heat or situation that the deer is in, and it's driving them to the living water of God. Yeah. You see, these people were in a place

where their soul was panting after the Lord, because what was making them uncomfortable was driving them to his feet. And it doesn't say that the deer pants for the water so it can receive a miracle, right? It says, my soul longeth after you. It is the place where the deer finds comfort and rest in the Lord. Because, as my husband said last week, worldly comfort is different than spiritual rest. Yes. And I'm not saying let me make this very clear. The Lord does not keep people physically and spiritually blind, lame, and crippled so that they come to the table. That that's not what I'm saying at all. Scripture reveals to us that God heals, he restores. He makes all things new in the body and the spirit. But what I'm saying is that while you're waiting, there is something at the feet of Jesus that can be greater than the miracle itself. He is the miracle. His presence is what we seek. Sometimes we're so focused on what's in his hand that we forget that there is something available at his feet. It's okay. Sweet thing. We got some cries. That's okay. I know, see, healing changes your condition. But his presence changes your life. The miracles may restore your body and your soul, but intimacy with Jesus transforms your life. See, Mark two twenty two is a place where we believe that God can heal you of all of your sicknesses and diseases. As it says in Psalm one hundred three. This is a place where if you need us to pray, to intercede, rebuke, declare, decree. It doesn't matter how dark, how deep, how wide. Whatever the diagnosis is, whatever the need is, the Lord can meet it. And this will be a place where Jesus won't walk in and say, I can't do any miracles here because there is unbelief. This will be a house of miracles because we will step out of our comfort zone, and we will say that the Lord's Word will be supreme. The Lord's Word is the final word we will believe. It doesn't matter how dark it is, how deep it is we will believe. But sometimes our pursuit for the miracle. We miss our invitation to get to know the miracle worker. Yeah. We're so focused on his hand, not his face. See the. The blind and the poor and the crippled and the lame. They knew that they needed to be brought near to the master. We never celebrate sickness or suffering or brokenness in this house, but I will tell you with confidence that some of the deepest encounters with Jesus happen in seasons where we realize we can't make it without him. Yeah. When excuses are put down and we get pushed past the limits of discomfort to become vulnerable, then you will receive the treasures that comfort can never discover. Because again, he is the treasure. And so as I continued studying this, as I started looking at Philippians chapter one and Luke fourteen, I began to see the chains. I began to see the discomfort. I began to see the comfort. And I realized, Paul is in this story. I am in this story, right? The church is in this story. See, Paul at first accepted the invitation as a Pharisee to learn about God, but he rejected the second invitation to know that Jesus was the Messiah and the Holy Spirit. And I realized there have been times in my life where I said, God, I want to know about you, but I don't want to know you. Because if I know you, that means I have to transform and I have to become uncomfortable. I have to allow the things that are holding me down the the bitterness, the unforgiveness, the things that I say are justified for me to hold. I have to let it all go. But then Paul met Jesus. Yeah, he became blind. He came to the table. He discovered fellowship. He was the one that came to the seat that was reserved just for him being blind, not knowing if he was going to receive his healing in those three days, he chose to sit at the table. And then something amazing happened. He was transformed by someone who was sitting at the table to the servant who was giving out the invitation. He became the servant, inviting everyone else. Paul lived his life transformed from saying, who are you, Lord, to come and meet me, Lord? He went from rejecting the invitation to carrying the invitation to

the people. He stopped making excuses and being comfortable in his religious duty and starting asking, how can my chains advance the gospel of Jesus Christ? Looking back at verse twelve in Philippians one, now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And in verse nineteen, the second half, it says the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Let's just read the whole thing. For I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. But I want you to see something that happened. Paul has transferred from sitting at the table of fellowship. He stopped making excuses. He stopped loving his comfort zone. He got to know who Jesus was. He became the servant, and now he is out giving the invitation. And in verse twenty three, back in Luke fourteen, it says, then the master told his servant, go out to the roads and the country lanes, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be full. And the new King James Version, it says, go out to the highways and the hedges and compel them to come in, that my house will be filled. And in the same period of time that Paul was in prison, writing these epistles about joy and writing these epistles that are flowing out of his comfort zone that he has stepped out of. He writes in Ephesians two fourteen, For He himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility. Do you want to know what hedges and you want to know what those dividing walls were? If there were people who were shut out from the society people that had diseases or people who they said they are unclean, or people who are rejected because of shame and guilt, and they had done something wrong to someone else. They had to stay on the other side of the hedges. And in the midst of him being in prison, in the midst of him being in chains, he wrote the words that says, every dividing wall of hostility has now been broken down. Go out to the highways and get them. Get them from behind the hedges, get them from wherever they are and what compels them to come in? We don't shame them in. We don't guilt them in. We don't manipulate them in. We love them in. Because in Jeremiah thirty one three, it says, I have loved you with an everlasting love. Therefore, with loving kindness I have drawn you. In the very midst of Paul being in chains. He is writing about. Let's go get the people who are unwanted and let them know that they can be free. Compel them in with love. And looking at Paul's chains again for just a moment, someone recently sent me this. I don't know if it was a post. It was a video. It was an article, something that talked about if you read Paul's books in chronological order, that something amazing happens. So I began to investigate this. I began to see what is happening with Paul. What is he writing about? Let's look at this in chronological order. Because they are ordered by greatest to least number of words. And so as I began reading this, let me let me just read down this progression. Paul began writing the Galatians and the book of Romans, and he would call himself an apostle of Jesus Christ. And it was all about salvation and faith, and his. He was confident. Then the next books that he wrote first and second Corinthians. He called himself the least of these apostles, where he was writing about the practical church life. Then in Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon, which are known as the prison books. He called himself the least than any of the least of the Lord's people, as he was writing about the supremacy of Christ in prison. You see, the more that Paul learned about himself, that he was in need of Christ in everything. And he pushed down the excuses and he stepped out of the comfort. The more Jesus Christ filled him, and he

realized, I will humble myself. Servant. I'm sorry, Apostle, the least of these apostles, the least of the least of the Lord's people. Then when he wrote first and second Timothy and Titus, he said, I am the worst of all sinners, the worst of all sinners. And he was writing books about how to lead a church. Yeah. In the prison epistles. In those books, he's writing about the supremacy of Christ while he was in prison, while he was in chains. Some of the things that he wrote in these books while in chains. For it is by grace you have been saved. You are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus. I pray that out of his glorious riches he would strengthen you. He is able to immeasurably to do immeasurably more than we can ask, think or imagine. May the peace that surpasses all understanding guard your heart. Guard your mind. He wrote, I have learned to be content in all things, for I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. So many people use that verse as like a genie in a lamp kind of verse. Well, I can do all things through Christ. Paul was talking about, I can be uncomfortable in these chains and I can know Christ through it. I can step out of what is making me uncomfortable, not focus on the chains. And I can focus on Christ because the prison became his pulpit. It became the place where he was able to teach and to preach about transformation. And I want you to take note of something else. It was after he had been in prison and endured all the suffering in all the things that he was uncomfortable in, that he wrote the books for leaders on how to lead. Yeah, he had to be in prison. We have so many leaders running around nowadays who just went to a few classes, walked across a stage, got a piece of paper, and they said, it is time for me to lead. But what is the prison that they had been through? What have they gone through that has developed their character? It took the prison to teach how to lead. See, Paul had been hated, rejected. He had been beaten, shipwrecked, flogged, bitten by snakes, imprisoned, bound in chains. But he didn't allow the discomfort of his flesh to become his God, to cause him to stop pressing in to learn who Christ was in the things that made him uncomfortable. Because there are chains that can deliver you. Yes. It's about the revelation of Jesus Christ. Yes, in the midst of his darkest hour, in the midst of the most difficult and challenging things, Paul said, I will accept the invitation. It took a whole lot of things to get him there. He had to be known as a murderer of Christians. He had to be blinded on the road to Damascus. He had to stay blind for three days, not knowing if he would ever see again. But being in that discomfort drove him to the table of fellowship with Jesus Christ, and he spent the rest of his life as the servant saying, come to the table. Come to the place where you will not just know about God, but you will know God. See, our goal is to never simply just be delivered from the chains. The greater miracle is that through them you can get to know who Christ is. And when you truly know him, it overflows in your soul, and it compels you to invite other people to the table so that they also can experience the transformation that you have experienced. Mark two twenty two. It's our turn to be the servant. Yes, it's our turn to step out of our comfort zones and stop talking to people about our discomfort. I'm not saying they're not real, and I'm not saying that they're not happening. But what I'm saying is, are we carrying it around and making the the lead topic of every conversation where people think, I don't even want to serve that God that you serve because all you talk about is your discomfort, where the things that make you uncomfortable are bigger than your God, which is definitely not true. It is time for us, Mark two twenty two, to go out into the highways, to go out into the byways, to go out to the hedges where the people who are unwanted, unloved, they believe they cannot be forgiven. It is time for us to stop focusing on our chains and being distracted by the things that keep us bound

and say, I will learn who Jesus is, and I will go out and tell, and I will bring them into this house. And this has nothing to do about numbers. Are you understanding me? Yes. Five people, ten people, twenty people. Whatever this house is, we will teach the same in this pulpit. We will be led by the power of the Holy Spirit, even if it is to teach the things that are uncomfortable. Yeah. Even if it is the sermons that cut because we know that it produces transformation. Yes. Mark two twenty two. It's time for us to be the servants. Yes. That. Give the invitation. Let's stop being distracted by the things that are bringing us discomfort and recognize that those are the things that are driving us to his feet, where we can learn more about him than we ever could in our comfort zone. If you could stand up with me. Priorities may need to be shifted. Schedules may need to be adjusted. Yeah, you may have to spend a little bit longer in one place than you wanted. But when you go out and you find people. That you say, do you want to know who Jesus is? Time goes away. Thinking in your mind about schedules, I was wondering if he was going to play. Thinking in your mind for just a moment. Close your eyes. I want you just to shut out all the distractions. Think about your schedule. Think about your day. Think about the comforts that you have in your life, that sometimes you forget to tell Jesus that you're so thankful for. And I want you just to ask the Holy Spirit, are there things in my life, Lord, that are making me comfortable, that is preventing me from growing spiritually? That's preventing me from being refined by your fire? Because I don't want to be vulnerable, because I don't want to be uncomfortable. I just continue to make excuses. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring those things to your heart, to bring those things to your mind right now, in this moment. Just allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you. For every person in this room. Lord God, I thank you, Lord, that as the word from last week about letting go of offense in the word this week, of stepping out of our comfort zone, Lord, as it begins to settle in our heart and even process. Lord God, in our lives, every day that you would be our strength. That you would be our help, Lord God. That in the uncomfortable we would learn to lean into the comforter where we can learn

Pastor Carla more about who you are. Jesus. That we would no longer focus on our chains and our discomfort, but that we would focus on you, Jesus, and the revelation of who you are. We thank you, Jesus for your presence in this place. It's in Jesus name. Amen and Amen.