

ASPIRE: A Kingdom Pursuit Bible Study

LESSON 1 — EXPECTATION MUST LEAD TO SOMETHING

Key Scriptures:

Mat 6:33, Psa 63:1, Heb 11:6, Pro 13:12, Rom 8:19

What does the word Aspire mean?

- ❖ Kingdom perspective: to possess a God-directed desire that moves the heart toward intentional pursuit – Mat. 6:33; Psa. 27:4; Phil. 3:14
- ❖ Practical perspective: to allow expectation to shape behavior, priorities, and pursuit – Jam. 1:22; Luk. 6:46; Col. 3:1-2

Expectation is important to moving forward

- ❖ Expectation positions your heart toward action or apathy – Jam. 2:17; Heb. 11:6; Isa. 29:13
- ❖ If I truly expect God to move, my life should reflect movement – Psa. 27:8; Joh. 5:6-9; Mat. 9:29
- ❖ Expectation that does not move you will eventually discourage you – Pro. 13:12; Heb 10:36; Lam 3:17-18

Expectation produces aspiration

- ❖ Aspiration is expectation with direction – Phi 3:13–14; Psa 37:4; Col 3:1–2
- ❖ David did not just expect God—he sought God – Psa 63:1; Psa 34:10; Psa 105:4
- ❖ “Early will I seek thee” in Psa. 63:1 shows intentional pursuit – Psa 5:3; Mar 1:35; Isa 26:9

Point to Ponder

If my expectation hasn't changed my behavior, I need to examine my faith – 2Co. 13:5; Jam. 1:22; Luk. 6:46

LESSON 1 — EXPECTATION MUST LEAD TO SOMETHING (continued)

Textual Focus — Psalm 63:1

David writes this psalm while he is in the wilderness of Judah. He is cut off from the sanctuary, separated from corporate worship, and living in a dry, dangerous place. Yet what stands out is not what David is missing—it's what David is seeking.

He opens by saying, “O God, thou art my God.” Before David talks about thirst, trouble, or terrain, he starts with relationship. His expectation of God is rooted in who God is to him, not what God can give him.

When David says, “Early will I seek thee,” he is showing us that expectation creates urgency. He doesn't wait for things to improve. He doesn't seek God when it's convenient. His expectation moves him toward God immediately.

David's thirst is deeper than physical need. He is teaching us that when life is dry, our greatest need is not relief—it is God Himself.

Connection to the Lesson

David's expectation did not sit still. It led him to seek God intentionally. This is where aspiration begins—when expectation refuses to remain passive and turns into pursuit.

LESSON 2 — WHAT YOU CHASE DECLARES YOUR PRIORITIES

Key Scriptures

Mat 6:33; Psa 63:3–5; Mat 6:19–21; Phi 3:13–14; Col 3:1–2

Pursuit Reveals What Matters Most

- ❖ We don't prioritize what we say—we prioritize what we pursue – Mat. 15:8; Tit. 1:16; Luk. 12:34
- ❖ What I chase consistently is what I value most – Mat. 6:21; Pro. 4:23; Ecc. 3:1
- ❖ Time, energy, and attention expose aspiration – Eph. 5:15–16; Psa. 90:12; Hag. 1:5–7

Seeking First Requires Reordering

- ❖ “Seek ye first” demands priority, not preference – Mat. 6:33; Deu. 6:5; Luk. 10:41–42
- ❖ David valued God's lovingkindness above life itself – Psa. 63:3; Psa. 84:10; Psa. 16:11
- ❖ Aspire means God is not an option—He is the focus – Col. 1:18; Rev. 3:15–16; Jos. 24:15

Point to Ponder

You will always find time for what you truly aspire to – Luk. 16:10; Pro. 16:3; Psa. 127:1

Seeking First Clarifies True Priority — Matthew 6:33

- ❖ Jesus speaks in the context of worry and misplaced focus – Mat. 6:25–32; Luk. 12:22–30
- ❖ Jesus does not deny real needs, but He deals with disordered pursuit – Mat. 6:31; Joh. 6:26; Hag. 1:6
- ❖ “Seek ye first” addresses order, not effort – Mat. 6:33; Deu. 6:5; Pro. 4:23
- ❖ What comes first shapes everything that follows – Mat. 6:21; Col. 3:1–2; Rom. 8:5
- ❖ The Kingdom of God refers to God's rule, authority, and way of doing things – Rom. 14:17; Dan. 4:34–35; Psa. 103:19
- ❖ Provision is added when priority is aligned – Mat. 6:33; Psa. 34:9–10; Phi. 4:19
- ❖ Anxiety increases when provision is pursued instead of God – Mat. 6:27; Luk. 12:29; Isa. 26:3

Connection to the Lesson

What you chase first reveals what you trust most.

Textual Focus — Mark 10:17–22

The rich young ruler appears sincere, disciplined, and morally upright. Yet when Jesus calls him to follow, his priorities are exposed. Jesus lovingly identifies what competes with Him for first place.

The man walks away sorrowful because his possessions possess him. His issue is not wealth—it is attachment.

Points from the Text

Right questions do not guarantee right priorities – Mar. 10:17; Mat. 7:21; Joh. 6:26

Moral discipline can exist without full surrender – Mar. 10:19–20; Phi. 3:6–8; Isa. 1:16–17

What you are unwilling to release reveals what you value most – Mar. 10:22; Luk. 12:15; Col. 3:5

NOTES:

LESSON 3 — YOUR PURSUIT OF GOD MAY LOOK FOOLISH

Key Scriptures

Mat. 6:33; Psa. 63:6–7; 1Co. 1:18; 2Sa. 6:14–22; Heb. 11:24–26

Kingdom Aspiration Isn't Always Understood

- ❖ Kingdom pursuit doesn't always make sense to those without Kingdom values - 1Co. 2:14; Rom. 8:5–7; Joh. 15:18–19
- ❖ Pursuing God often conflicts with worldly logic – Isa. 55:8–9; Rom. 12:2; Jam. 4:4
- ❖ Worship before deliverance can look foolish – Psa. 34:1; Hab. 3:17–18; Act. 16:25
- ❖ Faith doesn't need approval to be effective – Gal. 1:10; Joh. 12:42–43; Pro. 29:25

God Honors Unpopular Pursuit

- ❖ David praised God in the wilderness – Psa. 63:6–7; Psa. 42:8; 1Sa. 23:14–16
- ❖ Joy and worship were not tied to circumstance – Phi. 4:4; 1Th. 5:16–18; Neh. 8:10
- ❖ God blesses obedience more than appearance – 1Sa. 15:22; Joh. 14:21; Luk. 11:28

Point to Ponder

What others call foolish, God often calls faithful – Heb. 11:7; 2Co. 5:7; Mat. 5:11–12

Textual Focus — 2 Samuel 6:14–22

The ark represented the manifest presence of God. Its return to Jerusalem marked spiritual restoration, not entertainment or ceremony.

David responded with uninhibited worship. He laid aside royal image and personal dignity in favor of devotion. His worship was not performative—it was purposeful.

Michal watched from a distance and despised David. Her issue was not noise or movement; it was values. David valued presence. Michal valued perception.

David made it clear that his worship was “before the Lord.” His pursuit was not for approval, but for presence. Scripture notes that Michal remained barren, showing that contempt for genuine pursuit leads to spiritual fruitlessness.

Connection to the Lesson

Aspiration rooted in God may be misunderstood, but God honors devotion over dignity.

LESSON 4 — ASPIRATION REQUIRES CONSECRATION

Key Scriptures

Mat. 6:33; Psa. 63:8; Rom. 12:1–2; Jos. 3:5; 2Ti. 2:20–21

Pursuit Demands Commitment

- ❖ Aspiration requires more than desire—it requires devotion – Luk. 9:23; Mat. 16:24; Psa. 86:11
- ❖ “My soul followeth hard after thee” reflects intensity and focus – Psa. 63:8; Heb. 12:1; Phi. 3:12
- ❖ Half-hearted pursuit produces limited intimacy – Rev. 3:15–16; Hos. 6:4; Jam. 4:8
- ❖ Commitment is the moment we decide to follow. It is necessary, but it is not the end of the journey.

We Must Move Beyond Commitment to Consecration

- ❖ Commitment is the decision but consecration is the surrender
- ❖ Many folk are committed to God but not fully consecrated to Him.

Commitment	Consecration
Commitment answers the call.	Consecration gives God full access.
Commitment says, “ <i>I will follow.</i> ”	Consecration says, “ <i>I will surrender.</i> ”
Commitment can be selective.	Consecration is complete.
Commitment focuses on what I will do for God.	Consecration focuses on who I belong to.

What Commitment Looks Like

- ❖ Commitment agrees with God’s call – Jos. 24:15; Psa. 37:5; Luk. 9:57
- ❖ Commitment often responds to emotion or opportunity – Mar. 10:17; Joh. 6:34
- ❖ Commitment is tested when conditions change – Mat. 26:35; Joh. 18:25
- ❖ Commitment emphasizes activity more than surrender – Jam. 2:18; Rom. 10:9

What Consecration Looks Like

- ❖ Consecration surrenders ownership to God – Rom. 12:1; 1Co. 6:19–20; Lev. 20:26
- ❖ Consecration separates with purpose – Jos. 3:5; 2Ti. 2:21; Heb. 13:12
- ❖ Consecration remains obedient when obedience is costly – Luk. 22:42; Joh. 12:24; Heb. 5:8
- ❖ Consecration is about belonging before doing – Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:3; Joh. 17:19

Why Commitment Without Consecration Breaks Down

- ❖ Commitment fades when sacrifice increases – Joh. 6:60–66; Mar. 14:50
- ❖ Commitment struggles when obedience costs comfort – Mat. 19:22; Luk. 9:62
- ❖ Commitment can be emotional but inconsistent – Jam. 1:8; Hos. 6:4

Commitment starts the pursuit.

Consecration sustains it.

Consecration Brings Alignment

- ❖ Consecration is separation with purpose – Rom. 12:1; Lev. 20:26; 2Co. 6:17
- ❖ You cannot pursue God deeply while holding onto competing affections – Mat. 6:24; Luk. 14:33; Jam. 1:8
- ❖ Alignment positions us for clarity, direction, and power – Pro. 3:5–6; Psa. 25:4–5; Act. 13:22

Some Biblical Examples to Look At

Peter — Strong Commitment, Growing Consecration

- ❖ Peter declared loyalty quickly – Mat. 26:33; Joh. 13:37
- ❖ Peter's commitment failed under pressure – Mat. 26:69–75
- ❖ Consecration developed after surrender – Joh. 21:15–19; Act. 4:19–20

Peter shows us that commitment can be loud, but consecration is learned through surrender.

Jesus in Gethsemane — Perfect Consecration

- ❖ Jesus acknowledged the cost – Mat. 26:38
- ❖ Jesus submitted His will to the Father – Luk. 22:42
- ❖ Consecration preceded victory – Heb. 5:8–9; Phi. 2:8

Jesus shows us that consecration is choosing God's will even when it is costly.

Key Takeaway:

Commitment says, "I'll go."

Consecration says, "I'm Yours."

Aspiration starts with desire.

It moves through commitment.

But it only lasts through consecration.