4 Chairs
Finding Your Place, Moving Forward

Moving Forward in Life- today, spiritually. Next week- situations and circumstances.

Open Sharing

4 Chairs. In one of these chairs- as it relates to the Christian faith.

Chair One: Spiritually Uninterested/Hostile

- Raised

- Turned-off my hypocrite, Pharisee, church

- Christian who had a disappointment

  - Dad with cancer, mom who died, divorce, lost a child....

- Talk and wall goes up

  - Based on false expectations

If God...then... (“I did not know it was my job, "says God...)

Character: Judas
Woman- expensive perfume, broke it, poured it on Christ. Judas- could have given money to poor. Said this because treasurer. Used to steal from money bag.

Judas- hitched wagon to a star. Messiah- become king. Large and in charge. Judas make lots of money that way. Have lots of power. 
Jesus- Leave her alone. She has done a good thing. (Love make you do things that can't be explained.) You know what? What she has done will be preached everywhere. It was good.

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them - Mark 14:10

What happened? Judas came to the realization- Jesus isn't about money or power. His false expectation balloon busted. And he got angry and decided to make some money off of betraying Jesus.

He placed himself into chair one based on his false expectations.

Key Phrase- “God my way”
Key to Moving Forward: Spiritual, perspective
Chair Two: Seeker/Open

Sin in the world - no one who seeks God innately- in and of ourselves outside of God's influence- Rom. 3. Even faith to believe...comes from God.

- God gives us **3 things to draw us:**

  - **God-shaped** spiritual hole in our hearts.

  - **Circumstances**- cataclysmic events, brought low, meet people who are genuine, etc.

  - **Holy Spirit** to draw us to himself

- If honestly follow truth, will find truth

- **God draws everyone, Seekers act on it**

Church, reading bible, praying...whatever. Seekers act.

Character: Nicodemus

He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him"- Jn. 3:2

- Night

- “We know...” Nic acted on what he knew


Jesus- you gotta have a second birth. A spiritual birth. “Do not marvel that I say to you, you must be born again (from above).

That's the next. Opens up a whole new world. Everything changes.

Michelle began seeking. Found Jesus here in this little church. Her husband, David, saw a change in his wife that he could not deny. So he came here. Seeking answers to the “what's next?” question. He came to know Jesus and got changed by having that second birth.

That's how you move from chair 2 to chair 3...

**Key Phrase:** “What's next?”
Key to Moving Forward: Refuse to settle

Settle:

- Religion
- Spirituality
- Pseudo-Christian cult

Listen: There are people in every church in America right now who think they are Christian because they got baptized, they joined a church, they believe some stuff. But they never had a second birth. Heaven one day- Jesus- I never knew you.

Don't settle. Don't stop till you get the second birth.

- Nicodemus didn't settle. Defended Christ later on in John. At the end, asked for Christ's body to bury him. Let it be known that he was aligned with Christ.

Chair Three: Spiritually Committed/Disciple

- Have had a spiritual birth
- Are open to learning from Jesus

Maybe joined a church

- Will listen to a sermon
- Might read the bible
- They ain't following any other gods
- They're committed to Jesus

Character: Peter in the Gospels

Jesus- huge crowd- “eat my flesh and drink my blood”

- Everyone left. Jesus- “You 12 wanna leave me, too?"

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God" - John 6:68-69

Committed. Following. Learning. Ain't going anywhere else or following any other
so-called god or religion.

- Most of us are in this chair.
  - “Feed me, Seymour. Feed me!”

- We'll come to church- semi-regularly if not all the time. We'll listen. We'll volunteer occasionally. We're in chair 3.

- The word disciple means “learner.”

**Key Phrase:** “I found it!”

**Key to Moving Forward:** Refuse to become comfortable

Don't get in your spiritual lazyboy, kick your feet up and say, “feed me” forever.

- There comes a time when discipleship is not enough

- Even Christ's disciples only got 3 years.
  - Sent out twice to heal and do ministry even then!

- Acts 1- “why you standing around? Quit asking about the kingdom and get busy doing the ministry- Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, uttermost”

**Chair Four: Centered/Devoted**

I don't want you in chair 4, but I do. You can want you in chair 4. But that's not the point. The point is: Christ calls you to chair 4.

Jesus didn't die so you and I could get fed all the time.

Because chair 4 is where we're supposed to live. Chair 4 is a life...

- Life centered on the “greats”- commission/commandment

  going...make disciples of all nations, baptizing them (1st step of discipleship) and teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.

  - Not “know.” Not “memorize verses.” Not “get fire insurance.”

- Teaching to “observe”- to live out. To change us from the inside out.

We are to be so changed by his word that we begin feeding it to people so they can know and grown and become. “All authority is given me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore,
and make disciples...”

Great commission.  Great commandment- love God with all that's in you.  Love your neighbor as yourself.  Let your heartbeat become God's heartbeat through you.

Character: Peter in Acts

Arrested apostles (not disciples- learners.  Apostles- sent ones).  Put 'em in jail.  Angel sets them free.  Go to find them in the morning- not in jail.  Find them in the streets preaching again.

Arrest them again, beat them and tell them not to preach in the name of Jesus anymore. Making them uncomfortable- guilty of his blood and all.

They leave...

The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name- Acts 5:41

Acts 5:42- Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

Rejoicing because they had been counted worthy to suffer for Jesus!  That's hardcore, dawg.

Chair 4 is maturity.  It's mission.  It's life outside myself and my wants and my desires...

Key Phrase: “Just try and stop me"

Listen to Craig, then we end...

Which chair you in?  1st?  Good, at least you know

2nd- Great- get that second birth

3rd - for how long?  Disciples gotta become apostles- sent ones

4th - good- how's it going?

Pray