



A Trip Around the Sun

Part 2 – With My RAJ

Adam Donyes

For those of you who weren't here last week, Ted Cunningham kicked off a series called *A Trip Around the Sun*. How many of you grabbed Batterson's book, *A Trip Around the Sun*? If you haven't, I encourage you to do so. And if you haven't heard Ted's sermon from last week, I encourage you to go watch it. It is right to the heart of why Jesus came. He didn't come so that we would live lives of dullness. As a matter of fact, he said he came that we live lives of adventure.

Ted explained that every trip around the sun is one year of our life. Now I'm a type A personality so not to correct Ted or anything, but if I'm 30 years old, that's not my 30th trip around the Sun; that's my 31st trip around the Sun. When I'm born, that's my first trip around the Sun until I'm one year old and then after my first birthday, that's my second trip around the Sun. I know, my brain is weird and I'm type A, but that's the reality. So if you are 30 years old, you are actually on your 31st trip around the Sun.

Instead of telling my own trips around the sun, what about telling you about the trips around the Sun as a married couple since this is Twolgnite. How many of you in here are beyond 50 trips around the Sun with your spouse? How many are like 35 trips around the Sun with your spouse? Man, that's a lot of trips around the Sun. How many are like 25 trips around the Sun? So how is this trip around the Sun with your spouse? Ted talked about his individual trips around the sun and I'll finish up the *Trip Around the Sun* series and talk more about my individual trips, but I was thinking about how Stephanie and I are on our seventh year of marriage which means we are in our eighth trip around the Sun as a married couple.

I was thinking back on our trips around the sun. Our first trip around the sun as a married couple, our Yorkie got dognapped, our kitchen ceiling completely collapsed from a plumber shortcut, we got robbed so everything we registered for at our wedding was taken, and our heater broke. We were in Kansas City so if you can imagine a Kansas City winter without a heater... God was quickly sanctifying us.

In our second year of marriage, she and I were working for a school where there were some accounting problems and we would literally not get some of our paychecks. So we would go a couple of pay periods without getting paid, not having any idea how we were going to pay the mortgage or buy dinner. Those were definitely pressing-into-the-Lord times.

In our third trip around the sun, Stephanie and I went on a trip with Debbie Jo and Joe to Mexico where I began dreaming with Joe about this idea of discipling college students and young men and young

women. So on our fourth trip around the sun, we moved from Kansas City to Branson and kicked off Link Year.

On our fifth trip around the sun, we had our first born son who is in the middle of the terrible threes right now. And in our sixth trip around the Sun, we went and served some missionaries in Fiji. So Steph and I went to Fiji for a month and served alongside some missionaries with our Link Year students.

Then in our seventh trip around the sun, we had our second born, Anders. And now we are in our eighth trip around the sun and we are looking at being on mission together as we are headed to Eleuthera, Bahamas to serve with some missionaries for four weeks in February. So that's what we are doing on our trips around that sun, as she and I keep trying to live this life of adventure.

In that second trip around the sun as a married couple, Stephanie and I didn't have any money; we didn't know if our paycheck was coming. A sweet family blessed us with their condo in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. They said "Go down to New Smyrna Beach; we'll take care of your flights." So we went down there before all the spring breakers and the girls that show up with floss as their bathing suit. We went down there when New Smyrna Beach was a lot like Branson; the senior citizen capital of the world. So we're down in New Smyrna Beach and it was really quiet because it was all senior citizens and they put us up in this condominium that's about fifteen stories up and we were about five or eight stories up. Stephanie and I are sitting at this condo; it's beautiful and it's quiet.

I loved scaring my wife when we were first married. She hates being scared and when we know somebody hates something, we are idiots and we just like to press that button even more, right? So we're staying at New Smyrna Beach and I'm always the first one out the door. Husbands are usually the first ones out the door. I'm always pulling her along, encouraging her to not be late. I decide I'm going to play a trick on her, knowing she hates to be scared. I get in the elevator, go down, and then walking over to the parking lot, there is a little corner, a closet type area that is easy to hide in.

I was convinced I saw her out of the corner of my eye when I got in the elevator to go downstairs, so I knew she was going to be the next person getting out of the elevator. Keep in mind we are in New Smyrna Beach, the senior citizen capital of the world. I'm hiding behind this closet and I hear the elevator ding. Then I just start hearing these steps. I'm waiting in anticipation and then I jump out with my hands in the air and I start yelling. You know how it is; you're in midair, but you can't stop because you are already there and you want to stop, but you can't. A 70 year old man walked around the corner... He yelled and shook; I scared him so badly. I tried to tell him I was sorry. You know how they don't even have to say a word; they just look at you like you're the biggest idiot in the world. I literally could have given the dude a heart attack.

What does my wife say? "Serves you right!" I have not tried to scare that girl since. I learned my lesson. Don't mess with your wife. I'm so thankful I didn't give that guy a heart attack. I hope he's alive today, living for Jesus.

We are going to talk about *A Trip Around the Sun: With My RAJ*. What is RAJ? For all you older people who don't understand what the term BAE is, a lot of younger people are running around saying "That'

my BAE” or “She’s my BAE.” What they are saying when they use BAE is that person is “Before Anyone Else.” That’s what BAE means. So my wife tried to be hip the other day and said “Yeah, honey, you’re my Beau.” I said “It’s BAE and it means ‘Before Anyone Else.’ Actually, I’m your RAJ.” RAJ means “Right After Jesus,” not before anyone else. So we are going to talk about *A Trip Around the Sun with my RAJ*. So get your young people to stop saying BAE and get them to start saying RAJ.

So as we look at this trip around the sun as married couples and how we can be on mission as married couples, we really need to dive into one passage today. It’s one verse and we’re going to spend the majority of our time in this one verse. We see it in the second chapter of the Bible and it’s Genesis 2: 18. ***The LORD God said... If anytime he says something, it’s pretty important. “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”***

Now Adam was not alone and we know this from the Genesis 1 account because he had animals. As a matter of fact, he had to name all the animals. For all we know, Eden wasn’t fallen yet; humanity hadn’t fallen. So bears weren’t eating bunnies; there was no death yet. For all we know, it could have been like Narnia and the animals could have been talking with Adam. We don’t know. We know that he wasn’t alone, but in God’s sight he was alone and he said “It’s not good for man to be alone.” He needed to be in fellowship, in coinanea with other people. “I will make a suitable helper for him.”

All the single people say “Pause, Adam.” I’m about to talk to the single people because I know sometimes you show up at Twolgnite and feel like it has nothing to do with you because it’s focused on marriage. The next little bit is all to singles, so buckle up. Just because it’s saying that God said it’s not good for man to be alone, that does not mean that just because you are single you are in a curse. Singleness is not a curse. As a matter of fact, it’s an opportunity to maximize your next trip around the sun.

You have no idea, single men and single women... Ask anybody who has kids. Ask anybody who is married. You have more time on your hands right now than you will ever have in the rest of your life. And all the married people said... Amen. Stop wasting your time. Your singleness is not a curse. You have more time right now in your single years than you will ever have taking care of kids, raising kids, taking care of your spouse, whatever the case may be... having to work 40 hours a week. Yeah, I know that 20 hours a week seems a lot to you singles, but eventually, you are going to have to bump that up to 40 hours a week to provide. I get it, but you have more time right now as a single than you will ever have again.

Can you imagine, singles, being accountable for your single years, walking into the presence of Jesus and you’re like “I watched all the Downton Abby series on Netflix” or “I got Gilmore Girls down” or “Man, I can really conquer Halo” or “I’m the bomb at Call of Duty.” Fool, you’ve been called to duty; start realizing that. You will be accountable for how you use the single years and it’s not maximizing your trip around the sun when you’re just caught up on wasting your life.

Singleness is a blessing. Paul even says it’s a gift. Look at 1 Corinthians 7: 6-7. ***6 I say this as a concession, not as a command. 7 I wish that all of you were as I am.***

He's referring to himself as being single. Later on in that chapter, he goes on to say that those who are single are solely fixated on God and advancing his kingdom. Those who are married have to worry about serving and loving their spouse. Neither is a problem, but he's saying in your singleness right now, that is a gift. ***But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.*** So don't sit there and think *Oh, woe is me; I'm never going to get married* and just sit in depression in your singleness years.

I know some of you girls are hitting 25, 26, 27 and your mom is in sack cloth and ashes and morning and fasting that your husband would come along. I know! But trust in God's timing and why you are single and why you have all this time. Maximize every trip you have around the sun in singleness.

If I could go back... Now, being as busy as I am with two boys and a wife... I love being married; I wouldn't change it for the world, but there are some regrets when I look back to my single years when I had so much time to do more for His kingdom that I wasted and I can't get back. I'm busier now than I will ever be and I don't see any light of it slowing down.

Single girls and guys, I would tell you this. Instead of looking for the one, why don't you focus on becoming the one God has called you to be? Stop looking for the one. I don't even know if I'm of the camp where there is "the one." There are over 8 billion people in the world; good luck. I think when you find that person, they become the one because you make that covenant with God and before witnesses and now they are the one. The one you married is the one. But I think you are compatible with a lot of people, singles. I think there are a lot of people... With over 8 billion people, you better be compatible with somebody. Young people love to put all this stress and anxiety on themselves. Girls go on a date and as soon as they are on the date, they're wondering if they could marry this guy. It's just a first date, girls, chill out. Just get to know him a little bit and give him a chance. Girls are writing dudes off after the first date. Wait a minute, hold on; you just ran them through the ringer; give them a second chance. If the second date doesn't go too well, okay, then kick them to the curb.

Girls, I would tell you this and I would even tell married men this. **Treasures don't do the hunting, they are hunted for.** And the greater the treasure, usually the harder it is to find. Husbands, your wife's heart still remains a treasure. As a married man, you should be continually be pursuing her. You should continually be diving into the depths of that treasure. You should continually be getting to know her more. You don't need to study more books; you need to study your wife! You need to keep digging into that treasure.

Single ladies, make that man dig. Make that man search. Make that man hunt. Don't be so desperate to be in a relationship, because you're hitting 25, 26 years old, that anybody will do. The greater the treasure, the harder it is to find and treasures don't do the hunting, they are hunted for. And husbands, we should never stop pursuing the treasure of her heart. And in that, young ladies, as you sit there and realize you are a treasure, you can just fixate your eyes on Jesus, maximizing your singleness and not worry about if you are ever going to get anybody. And young men do the same thing. Biblically, we know that we are not to waste our time. Don't waste this trip around the sun, singles. God makes it very clear.

Paul writes a letter to the Saints in Ephesus. **15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.** The Lord’s will is that you would maximize your trip around the sun in your singleness. The Lord’s will is that you would maximize your trips around the sun as a married couple. The Lord’s will is that you would not waste time playing video games and watching Netflix and swinging a golf club every day. The Lord’s will is that you would be on mission with your spouse, that you would be on mission with Jesus in your single years, that you would not waste it on anything that doesn’t have any eternal significance.

Let’s go back to Genesis 2: 18. **The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”** Let’s focus on that word *helper* for just a second. Adam did everything God had asked him to do. He named the animals, he took care of everything he could, he cultivated the land, but he still wasn’t complete. So regardless of whether or not Adam, in that moment in the garden, thought he needed a helper, God still provided him a helper and here is why. What the man lacks, the woman accomplishes and vice versa.

Men, I don’t care how independent and awesome you are, you cannot bear a child. It’s not going to happen, Mr. Jenner, it’s not going to happen. You cannot bear a child, I promise. God created us the way he created us for a reason. So it is so important that we understand as a married couple that we are on mission together.

I’m extremely independent. My wife will tell you that and my three year old is showing the same strong will as his daddy and I feel bad because my wife is having to suffer my personality through him as not a believer verses someone who is a believer. Stephanie and I are on mission together. I realize I need her help. As we are on mission, there are things that she brings to the table that I can’t bring to the table like patience and not being intense 24/7 and understanding and compassion and gentleness. I don’t always handle conversations with gentleness as well as she does.

Yesterday, we encountered one of our Link Year students that really wanted talk. She didn’t want to talk to me; she needed to talk to a girl, so I pointed her to one of our married girls, Stephanie, who had a conversation with her. So when we are on mission together for God’s kingdom, we realize that what I lack, she accomplishes and vice versa.

You have to ask yourself this question, Woodland Hills: “Without my spouse, I wouldn’t be able to accomplish what?” Here’s really the question: What are you doing for God’s kingdom that you actually need your spouse’s help? Here’s the reality, fellas, you don’t need your spouse’s help to go swing a golf club every day. Trust me. Have you ever seen my wife swing a golf club? I don’t need her help. That’s not a knock on Stephanie; she just doesn’t swing golf clubs. I don’t need my wife’s help to watch football games all day.

There are things in life, that could be time-wasting, that I don’t need her help with, so the question we have to ask ourselves is: What are we doing that does require help? When I’m on mission for the Lord and I’m on mission to make disciples and raise my boys up as disciple makers and to raise Link Year

students up as disciple makers, I need her help with those things. When I'm fixated on advancing God's kingdom, that's when I need her help. You don't need your wife's help to watch television. Stephanie doesn't need my help to watch Netflix. She needs my help as we pour into the lives of the next generation. She needs my help when she's out pouring into the community and serving others and loving others. She needs my help and I need her help raising these boys, discipling them under God's word.

So if you can't think of anything you need your spouse's help with, I want to ask you how you are maximizing your trip around the sun as a married couple. What are you doing that you can't get done without your spouse? I know some of you men are extremely independent, but there is a great humility in swallowing that pride and realizing that you can't disciple your kids the way your spouse can. You can't listen to people the way your spouse can. Regardless of your independence, the help of your spouse is divine. Regardless of whether or not you thought you needed their help, God brought you the helper and it's divine. What God has joined together, let man not separate. If you think you don't need your wife's help... No, no, no; that helper is divine. That is a God-given helper. Regardless of what Adam thought he needed in the garden, divine help came. God created Eve and said "You need a helper and here she is."

I rarely say there are God moments in my life. I think God is always working and his word is living and active. Two weeks ago, I got a phone call from a dear Kansas City couple that my wife and I love a lot. Their marriage is on the rocks. He is struggling with some addictions and she's a really strong business woman right now, basically making all the money for the family. They are on the brink of divorce. They are near and dear to my heart.

I called them and told them to come down to Branson, this weekend. I told them that Stephanie and I wanted to get some time with them. Originally, I had planned a Link Year pool party for yesterday afternoon, but God decided he was going to change the temperature by 15 degrees and a pool party didn't sound as appealing at the time. So the pool party gets scratched and literally two days ago, I get a text from a good friend of mine in Kansas City (different couple). He said "Hey, you've got to take your Link Year students to see War Room."

So this couple is coming down from Kansas City to spend the weekend with my wife and me. Their marriage is literally on the rocks. I told them we weren't doing the pool party and asked them if they wanted to go to this movie with us. We had no idea what it was about other than she's really bitter and he's really broken. They agreed. So we're driving over to the movie War Room and I say "Hey, I'm going to be a buzz kill; let's talk about where you guys are at." It's a mess. There is just like a wall; you can just sense it. She doesn't want to be by him. She doesn't even want him to touch her. She doesn't want anything to do with him.

I asked them if they had begun entertaining the idea of divorce. He quickly says no, but she doesn't answer. So I pressed into that a little bit. She's hurt, she's bitter, there's no trust there, and she's struggling. So we pull up to Branson Meadows and could tell my wife was praying. Sometimes my wife doesn't realize it, but her lips start moving, but she's not saying anything, so I know she's praying. I thought maybe I should be praying too, so I'm just praying as we walk up to the movie theater.

The conversation was just on a dead halt. It was kind of awkward. As we are walking to the movie theater, I realize this girl has been thinking about divorce. They are only about three or four years in on their trips around the sun.

We go into the theater with all of our Link Year students. By the way, we weren't even going to watch this movie on this day. We literally made a change of plans like 24 hours earlier. So I'm sitting in there and it's me and my wife and this couple. I'm not a crier at movies. I'm telling you that the tissue boxes came out. In the middle of this movie, I'm crying and my shirt is getting drenched. I look over and my wife is crying. I look over at them and he's crying and she's crying. Then I'm realizing I didn't need to say anything. I was asking God to give me the right words to say to them and I'm sitting there in this movie and oh my gosh... I had no idea what the movie was about. It was one of those God moments; I was getting chills all over my body. I'm even get chills telling you the story right now. God was moving. He's speaking directly to her and she's speaking directly to him.

So we leave and the wife gives me this look like... I said "I swear I had no idea what that movie was about."

My wife's like "No, we really didn't know what that movie was about; I promise. That was a God moment; that was just crazy." We literally had no idea what that movie was about; just that we should go watch it.

We went back to my house. We sat down and talked with them for two hours. We just hung out on the couch and had great conversation. We worked through a lot of stuff. There is still a lot of healing that needs to take place. We prayed over them and with them. I walked them to their car and her countenance had completely changed in a matter of three hours. She went from completely cut off to hope. She walked out of my house with hope. I walked them to the car and gave them both a huge hug and told them I was praying for them. About an hour and a half into their drive back to Kansas City, I get a text from her. All it said was "We're going to make it."

She was living in a place of independence. She was like *I don't need him*. She didn't even like coming home after work. She's at her work and she killing it making money. She's like *I don't need him*. I reminded her of God placing him in her life. "That is divine and you guys have got to work through this." The reality is, like many of you and like her, she felt like she was just in this nasty fight with her husband. She said she hates coming home. She says as soon as she gets home, it's like the boxing gloves get put on and they're just fighting. She said she would come home and instantly she had her guard up because the blows were coming.

If some of you married couples were to be honest with me today, you would just tell me "Adam, I've got the gloves on." And some of you husbands are even throwing jabs. Maybe not physically, but emotionally, mentally. She was so guarded that she didn't want anything to do with him. He was raising his voice with her. She didn't want anything to do with him. She was just right here in the defensive stance. Once in a while she would fight back. Some of you are there.

The beautiful thing about when we are on mission together... When we are maximizing our trips around the sun, why are we fighting with each other? Don't you get that's exactly what the enemy wants? The battle is not with our spouse, the battle is with the enemy. Your spouse is in your corner. Your spouse is supposed to be fighting with you, not against you. When you're fighting with your spouse, you're punching the wrong enemy. So I have these gloves at my house and they have a verse on them. It's Exodus 14: 14. Some of you are so tired of fighting. Exodus 14: 14 says "***The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.***"

Literally, that wife left yesterday and her posture had changed. She was like "I'm done; I'm taking off the gloves. I'm done fighting. I'm done throwing blows. I'm done doing all this. I'm going to let the Lord fight. I'm going to start pressing into him as I pray."

We see that, regardless of whether or not we think we need it, God placed a helper there for us, right? So the last word I want to look at in Genesis 2: 18 is ***The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*** It's important to know here that *suitable* does not mean slave. Just because you get married doesn't mean that now your wife does the dishes and the laundry and all the cleaning... No, suitable helper does not mean slave. As a matter of fact, God gave us a suitable helper, and he gave Eve to Adam to expose Adam's selfishness. Adam would never realize how selfish he was until he was given Eve and then he realized *Wait a minute, she's a suitable helper, she exposing my selfishness and my need to serve others.* Jesus' example for us is in Matthew 20: 28 where it says "***just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.***" Just because God gives you a suitable helper does not mean he gave you a slave. Your wife, your husband is not your slave.

I love this example. A couple of years ago, Stephanie and I were on vacation in San Diego. We were with a bunch of our friends for a week. Two of our friends, their names are Diana and Kyler. Diana and Kyler were doing laundry together. It wasn't just Diana's job; they were doing it together and they were folding laundry. Steph and I were just in the room, hanging out and talking to them. All of the sudden, I see Kyler grab a sock and just chuck it at his wife as hard as he could. She tried to dodge it and move it and catch it before it hit the ground. Then she grabs a sock and chucks it at him. They had made this game out of folding laundry. Before the sock gets folded... if you can hit the person without them catching it, you win. What they win, I don't know; I'll leave that up to them. They made so much fun out of doing laundry. Kyler was in it with her. They were doing it together. It's not like just the wife's job. He understood that suitable does not mean slave. They had this fun catch it if you can game with the socks. It was hilarious. Stephanie tried it when we got back and we were laughing and it was just goofy.

But God's like "You guys are in this together. You guys are on mission together." It's not that she's the wife so she does the cooking and the cleaning. Suitable does not mean slave. It's important to know... Some of you in here are like *I thought they were suitable when I married them. I don't think they are suitable anymore. Our passions, our desires, everything is going in the opposite direction. They are not suitable anymore.*

Let me give you quick reminder. God always knows what we need more than we do. So regardless of whether or not you think that individual is still suitable, God saw them as suitable. And the two became one and that suitable helper is exactly what God wants to sanctify us, to put us on mission together, and to keep pointing us back to Jesus. The reality is some of you are like “His desires are so different than my desires or her desires are so different than my desires... We’re not even on the same page. We’re not even on the same book. We’re not even in the same stratosphere right now.”

I would tell you this. Psalm 37: 4 says ***Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*** Here is the mistake we make with that verse. What we like to do is say “Give me the desires of my heart, God.” You forget that Psalm 37: 4a says take delight in the Lord... This is what happens when you begin to delight in the Lord and his mission and what he sees for your adventurous trips around the sun: he begins to unify your heart with his and then you can trust the desires of your heart because your desires become his desires. Isn’t that awesome how that works?

I know as I keep pressing into the Lord with Stephanie and we keep pressing into the Lord, we can trust our desires. Stephanie didn’t originally want to move to Branson. Can you blame her? It’s hillbilly Vegas. She didn’t originally want to move here, but she and I kept pressing into the Lord and as we kept pressing into the Lord, it was amazing as we saw him unify our hearts with his. As we realize this, we understand that the most powerful thing we can pray... I told this couple as they left “God, would you unite our hearts with yours.”

Almost every night after I do the New Morning Mercies devo with Stephanie, we pray together “God, would you continue to align our hearts with yours.” It isn’t “Now align Stephanie’s heart with mine; get her to come over to what I want.” Stephanie is not praying “Align Adam’s hear with mine so I get what I want out of this marriage.” Our prayer is that he would continually unite our hearts with his because then we are on mission together. When we are on mission together, I need a suitable helper. When my eyes are fixated on Jesus and I’m looking to advance his kingdom for his glory, I need a suitable helper. I don’t need help to swing a golf club. I don’t need help wasting time watching college football all day. I need help when I’m on mission with my spouse. God would you keep uniting my heart with hers.

Then I’ll close with this. With Jesus and a suitable helper, we have all we need to live a life of adventure. Of course when your eyes aren’t fixated on Jesus and you’re fixated on what you want and she’s fixated on what she wants, there is going to be no life of adventure. But when you enter into Jesus’ presence as a married couple and you’re seeking him and you realize he can fulfill you in a way that your spouse can’t and there begins to be this healthiness as you’re on mission together, understanding that Christ lived the life we all should have lived, died the death we all deserved to die, fixating your eyes on him, the author and perfecter of our faith who gives us this grace undeserving... I know your husband doesn’t deserve grace right now and that’s why you are going to keep the boxing gloves up. I know your wife doesn’t deserve grace right now.

My wife and I talked to this married couple and told them “I know he doesn’t deserve your grace right now, but do you know what, sweetie? Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice, and be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ, God forgave you.”

So I looked at this wife yesterday and said "Do you deserve his forgiveness?"

She said "No."

I said "And I know he doesn't deserve your forgiveness, but it's not about what we deserve." God doesn't give us what we deserve. And when we get passed that and can live on mission for Jesus, everything changes. With Jesus and suitable helper, we have all we need to live a life of adventure.

Let me close with this story. Aiden, my three year old that's going through the terrible threes right now... I gave him the biggest spanking I think I've ever given him in his life yesterday. I kidnapped all his costumes and they are in the closet right now. He's been asking all morning when they come out of time out.

He had this hand-me-down Tow Mater power wheel. He had been driving it around our house and it's old. Finally it went kaput. It sounded like a dead cat was inside the power wheel. That thing was done. He wasn't having it. He goes and grabs his little fake wood tool box and asks me to fix it. I said "Buddy, those aren't going to fix the problem." He thinks Daddy can fix everything so he's throwing a fit and he's starting to cry and it gets to a point where he's on the ground kicking his legs and screaming and yelling "FIX IT! FIX IT!"

So I get down on his level and I say "Aiden, what would you do if I told you that when you're 16 years old, I'll get you a real car?" He looks at me for a second and then screams "NOOO! I DON'T WANT A REAL CAR. I WANT TOW MATER FIXED!!"

Do you know what I realized in that moment? How many of our marriages are settling for Tow Mater when God's like "Hold on married couple, I've got something better in store for you. I've got a life of adventure for your marriage to be on mission together, to love this community, to serve this community, to give back to this community, to help people that need your love right now, to come alongside couples that need your help, to come alongside families that need your help, to give to people that need." He says "Stop settling for Tow Mater, playing golf, and video games and everything else all day long. I've got something better for you than Tow Mater."

Then it hit me. He doesn't get it because he's so narrow minded, he so right here, right now. He's not seeing the big picture. When God said "It's not good for man to be alone, I'll make a suitable helper for him," he saw the big picture. I pray we do as well.

Father God, I thank you so much for your goodness and your grace and your mercy and your compassion and for treating all of us better than we deserve. God I just pray for the marriages in this room that have their gloves up. They are fighting; they're throwing fists. I just pray for forgiveness and for courage and boldness to live marriages of adventure. I pray we don't waste our trips around the sun. I pray we maximize every opportunity you've given us.

God, I just pray that you continue to use this church body to pour into your community and to your people and to love the lost and to seek the lost and to encourage the lost. God I just lift this body up to you and I thank you for all that you're doing at Woodland Hills.

It's in the matchless and mighty name of Jesus that we pray and all of God's people said... Amen.