

# Message Extras

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

*Message Extras accompany the [weekly message](#).*

Jesus brought the royal official in John 4 to a place He brings all of us – faith versus unbelief. Jesus does this because He knows in our lives, there is always a little more room for Himself. His goal for our lives is more of Himself, less of ourselves.

To help us understand, our speaker shared an illustration of a box and our human tendency to try to fit as much in the box as we can. We do this in many aspects of life. We take on more than we think we can in work, we order more food than any human can eat at the restaurant, we continue to pack our automobiles full of cool gadgets, to catch the latest episode of the cool new show you have to add one more streaming service, we pack more plans into our vacations than we can accomplish, we sign our kids up for more activities than we can get to, and yes we try to fit as much in the shipping container as possible. It is like there is something hard-wired into our fallen natures that says, “I want more!”

All this clamor for more creates fear and stress until eventually we say, “Enough, no more!”

When you read John 3, pay attention to how the disciples of John the Baptist first responded when Jesus disrupted their boxes of ministry. “They came to John, and said to him, ‘Rabbi, that man [Jesus] who was with you on the other side of the Jordan – the one you testified about – look, He is baptizing, and everyone is going to Him.’” (John 3:26)

Let me translate. “John, hey, who’s this new guy! He’s totally on our turf. And can you believe it, he is baptizing people? I mean, John, baptizing people? That’s your thing. I know you said that you were unworthy to tie his shoes and all, but come on, we were here first!”

You gotta love John’s response! “He must increase, I must decrease.” (John 3:30) John the Baptist got it! He understood that there is always more room for Jesus.

You see, when Jesus came on to the scene, He disrupted the boxes the disciples of John were carrying. And that’s what Jesus does when He challenges you to make more room for Himself. Jesus doesn’t only want more room in your spiritual box. He wants the whole

thing. And not only your spiritual box but also your career box, your family box, your financial box, your recreation box ... He wants all of you!

More than this, He wants to fill you so full that the top and the bottom of the box that is your life just blows right off. Jesus wants to remove the top and bottom of the box so that only four sides remain. A box with only four sides doesn't make sense now does it, at least not in our fallen human minds. But, if you understand that the box with four sides is your life, and the purpose of your life is for the life of Jesus to flow through your life, from God to Jesus to you to others, then such a box makes complete sense.

- What boxes of your life are you trying to fill with things other than Jesus?
- How do the boxes of your life limit the work Jesus wants to do in and through you?
- What changes do you need to make in your life to make more room for Jesus?
- Read Exodus 40:34-35. Moses could not enter the tabernacle because the Glory of the Lord filled it. In Christ, your life is the tabernacle of God. Ask God to so fill you that there is only room for Himself.
- Close your eyes. Think of the stars. Picture them in your mind. The farthest stars we know about are billions and billions of miles away. Picture them burning out in space. Now consider this. God is bigger! Amazing! The Lord of all creation who spoke the stars into motion wants all of you ... all of me. The next time you want to limit God, think of stars and make some room.

