

Take it to the next level

- What is the next level?
 - o It could be a deeper relationship with God, getting baptized, serving, etc.
- How did Jesus take it to the next level?
 - o He prayed and fasted for 40 days.
 - o **Luke 4:1-13**
 - We need to do this as well. We don't have to do it to this extent though. How many in the broader church are doing this? Sometimes, I think we forget about this. I forget about this sometimes.
 - o Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane
 - **Matthew 26:36-46**
- What other Biblical examples do we have of people going into their next step?
 - o Apostles in the Upper Room
 - **Acts 1:4-5; Acts 2:1-4**
 - o Paul – prayer and fasting after God encountered him
 - **Acts 9:1-19; Galatians 1:11-21**
 - o Do these stories have anything in common?
 - Prayer, fasting, revelation, and being filled with the Holy Spirit are mentioned. Taking it to the next level requires us to seek God.
- Taking it to the next level requires courage; it sometimes requires us to be uncomfortable
 - o **Matthew 14:22-33**
- Taking it to the next level requires sustainability.
 - o **John 15:1-8**
- Taking it to the next level requires us to stop thinking we aren't worthy enough.
 - o **Exodus 4:10-17**
 - God still used Moses, but his unwillingness to be used by God with his words made God go get someone else.
- How do we take it to the next level?
 - o Seek God through prayer, fasting etc. have courage, be sustainable, God wants to use you.
 - How can you do each of these?
 - o Start easy!
 - How can you do prayer and fasting sustainably?
 - Ask God how you can pray and fast.
 - Tell them what I do.
 - Prayer and fasting increases my ability to hear from God.
 - o Take the first step like Peter, abide in the vine to sustain yourself, and know that God has something for you right now.
- 507 last week; think about how many can be impacted if we all do these things.
- Let's kick off Pastor Mike's sabbatical the right way. Let's have him come back to a church that's on fire. Let's not just get by or start to slip. Let's raise the spiritual atmosphere and see what God can do.
- Brandon Hollar is preaching next week. He is coming all the way up from Austin, Texas!