



GOSPEL *for* LIFE

Gospel-Centered Discipleship with Jonathan Dodson Season 3, Episode 8 Transcript

[00:00:09] [Intro]: Welcome to the Gospel for Life podcast, we help people grow by connecting truth to life. Here's your host, Darryl Dash.

[00:00:09] Darryl Dash: Welcome back to the Gospel for Life podcast. And today, as usual, we want to talk about discipleship. I remember talking to a pastor who said he was retired, and I asked him what he was going to be doing now, and he said “Now that I'm retired, I think I want to figure out discipleship.” And that really hit me at the time. Like man, that's like an auto mechanic getting to the end of his career and saying, “I think I want to learn a little bit about how engines work now.” It just seemed to make no sense to me. And so it's so important for us to think about this now. Whether you're a pastor or just a believer, all of us are tasked with this job of not only being, but making disciples.

[00:01:00]: So I want to talk today to a friend of mine, not one I know super well, but one whose ministry I've appreciated. I've actually met him in person, and his name is Jonathan Dodson. He is a founding pastor of City Life Church in Austin, Texas, and he lives there with his wife and three children. You might know him from his books. He's also a founder of GCDiscipleship. He's written a number of good books, but the one we're talking about today is called Gospel-Centered Discipleship.

Jonathan, thank you so much for joining us today.

[00:01:34] Jonathan Dodson: Hey Darryl, it's good to join you. Thank you for your ministry, and I'm looking forward to our conversation.

[00:01:41] Darryl Dash: I know this book was originally released ten years ago, but why did you write this book?

[00:01:47] Jonathan Dodson: Well, I wrote the book in part out of my own struggles as a disciple. Seeing kind of the poor formation I have as a young disciple, falling into the pitfalls of legalism and license, bending rules, breaking rules, keeping rules, and really kind of God's rules, being the center of my following after Jesus as opposed to the gospel of grace. And then as I began to make disciples, I realized how much people needed this new center, which is really an old center. It's always been the center of spiritual formation, discipleship, the church, but we usually get off path.

So yeah, I wrote it out of my own personal struggles, but also in an attempt to help other struggling disciples who tend to veer to the left or to the right of the gospel in just day-to-day life. Whether it's how they're performing at their job or what they're thinking of themselves as a person or how they're doing in marriage. It's kind of a personal and then pastoral concern behind the book.

[00:02:58] Darryl Dash: No, I know a lot of books are released and they kind of make a splash and then they disappear. And I'm a little bit frustrated by that because books are almost like the new periodicals, right? They're almost released and then forgotten.

This book is being re-released now, ten years later. Why do you think that it's still getting traction ten years later? I mean, back then, gospel-centered everything was in vogue and it's not anymore. So speak to why you think it's still relevant and why Crossway decided to re-release it right now.

[00:03:30] Jonathan Dodson: Well, it's not because of the original writing. As I got back into the book, the original writing was flowery, and it was repetitive. I still agree with all the theology, but it needed to be cleaned up, it needed to be better illustrated. So it's not because of that, and for that reason, I was grateful to get to revise the entire book for the new edition as well as the added three chapters.

But the angel in Revelation proclaims and quote “eternal gospel,” and we live in ephemeral, changing times. And I think we all sense that whether we're able to articulate it or not, a need for something that is eternal grounds us. Kierkegaard talked about the only thing that is always relevant to all people in all places is the eternal. The eternal gospel of Jesus Christ is always relevant because it can speak to every person in every place, in every situation because it's outside of time. And the wonderful thing about it is that it's always good news. So I think the age-old eternal relevance of the good news of Jesus will not tarnish or fade. And therefore a book that is faithful, I think, to that gospel and tries to bridge the

eternal, unchanging nature of the gospel to be changing temporal cultural times we're in, perhaps is something that's worth reading ten years later.

[00:05:05] Darryl Dash: Yeah, it really is helpful, I appreciate the book. I don't think I read the first version cover to cover, but I did have it. I remember reading parts of it, and I really do appreciate the update. So yeah, super helpful.

Well, Jonathan, this might be an old hat for a lot of us, but I think it's important to go over this, why is the gospel essential not only to our salvation but to the entire Christian life?

[00:05:31] Jonathan Dodson: Well, if you think of those shuttles that leave Earth and go to space, and as they make their way to space, they have an entire fuel container capsule that they're attached to. And once the shuttle has made it past the atmosphere, that piece falls away. It jettisons that, and then the shuttle moves on into space.

And a lot of us have treated Christianity like that. The gospel gets me through the atmosphere into faith, and then it falls away. And then I'm just left to navigate the space of life and hardship and suffering and all the things by myself. And you do that for any length of time, and you're going to realize it's really hard. You're a harder master than Christ as a King, and you're less merciful than He is a savior.

[00:06:35]: So if you're out there trying to navigate things and you do things wrong, you might get too hard on yourself and you blow it. You're a bad master. If you do really well, you're floating along, you're making progress, you might praise yourself too much and take too much credit. So you're not a good master in that regard. You're prone to pride; strong pride or weak pride. But Peter talks about the Gospel is supposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. And in the soil of humility, we encounter Jesus who forgives us for our failures, strengthens us for our successes, and helps us move along in the Christian life. And that is more gratifying and effective than being your own master, your own shuttle pilot, so to speak. I think that Jesus Christ is Lord is the essential gospel and makes all the difference in the world.

[00:07:35]: Darryl Dash: I remember as a pastor thinking, oh, well guilt manipulates people. And I remember there was a phase of my ministry that I realized if I could get up there and make people feel really guilty, they're motivated, and yet how short-lived that is. It really isn't what the gospel is all about. So speak to me about how can pastors build a ministry of discipleship around the gospel in their preaching and even the ways that they structure the church?

[00:08:06] Jonathan Dodson: Yeah, preaching and the way they structure the church maybe to begin with preaching, I think perhaps in our stream of Christianity, when someone says you need to preach the gospel, what comes to mind is the cross and justification. In other words, preach that Jesus died for your sins and you are forgiven, or preach how can an unrighteous person become righteous before a righteous God? How do you get justified and accepted before a Holy God? So those two gospel metaphors, atonement and justification of what often when we say preach the gospel, we're thinking about.

But there are other gospel metaphors that fill out the portfolio of the gospel that actually have immense practical value in the lives of people we preach to. So for example, the gospel metaphor of new creation, that the old has passed away, behold a new creation has come. This is particularly appealing to people who struggle with depression, who have despair, perhaps have really blown in life, or have had a life of addiction or made bad financial decisions. The idea that they could be a new man or woman is incredibly appealing.

[00:09:25]: I was talking to someone this morning who has been struggling with shame, and they're very well versed in justification and atonement. It's not that God can't use those things or that those things aren't untrue, but they said as they've been learning about new creation in our church. It's given them so much hope that they aren't defined by the shame of the past, but of the grace and the joy and the newness of the presence in Christ. So one way to preach the gospel faithfully is to preach the whole gospel, not just your favorite bits or your favorite metaphors. So that would also include adoption, adoption appeals to belonging, new creation, to being new or to having hope. *Christus Victor*, the idea that Jesus has defeated the powers, that has a lot to do with a longing for justice. So there are different gospel metaphors that are in the text when we preach, but often we glaze over them or we push them to the side and insert Jesus died on the cross for your sins. And while that's true, when he did that, he also did a number of other gospel things that people really need to hear and need to be massaged into their lives.

[00:10:44] Darryl Dash: I heard a preacher last week, Jonathan, who was basically just preaching the gospel, and I was sitting there listening to him, and when I say he was preaching the gospel, he just opened the text and he was making Jesus real to me and his work for me. And I've been preaching for 30 years, and have been a believer for 50 years, and there was a freshness in that moment to what he was speaking that I'm amazed that 50 some years in, there's still stuff that I'm discovering almost for the first time, at least at the heart level. I just love that. I really appreciate your answer and how comprehensive and inexhaustible the gospel is, so I appreciate that.

[00:11:27] Jonathan Dodson: Yeah, Paul describes it as the unsearchable riches of Christ, that there's no limit to uncovering. I like the way you said it, the heart knowledge. Even if you happen to have known quite a bit, there are always heart discoveries. And every morning I open up the Bible and I come before the Lord, I'm banking on a heart discovery of how good God is to me in Christ. So yes, that's wonderful to hear. I like the language too, it's making Jesus real to me. He is very real. And that of course, is the privilege of people in ministry, is to show and to demonstrate and to illustrate Jesus is real. Jesus suffers, Jesus rejoices, Jesus is human, and Jesus is divine, so it's good news.

[00:12:17] Darryl Dash: Do you ever have this experience of preaching where sometimes we preach and we're preaching to ourselves, and sometimes it becomes so real to us that we're like, man, if this is true, this is exactly what I need to hear? And the way we do it, we usually front-load our sermon, and at the end we come to the table. And sometimes I feel like selfishly, almost like you guys need to let me come to the table first because nobody needs the mercy and grace of Jesus more than I do. And there's this amazing freshness to that, so I really appreciate how you're describing this.

[00:12:58]: Jonathan, in the book you talk about discipleship being a number of things. You talk about it being rational, and it feels like our tribe is really good at maybe the head knowledge of theology. But you also talk about it being relational and missional. It really seems like all of us gravitate towards one or maybe two of those things. I don't know many people, and I'm including myself in this, I don't know any of us that really get that right, so could you unpack what that means? What would it look like for our discipleship to be rational, relational and missional?

[00:13:37] Jonathan Dodson: Yeah, well we're always struggling. Another way to say that is we're converted three times, to Christ, the Church and his mission, which I talk about later in the book, or gospel, community, mission. There are different ways to say it, but they're all integral to the Christian life. And I think if you're a sinner, then you're going to probably be weak in one of those at a given point and strong in others. So I don't think it's a matter of balancing plates as much as kind of breaking the plates and keeping your eyes on Jesus with these things in view. As opposed to trying to spin the gospel community mission and then add Jesus onto it and go "I've been a good Christian." So practically speaking, we have what we call city groups and they're like our small groups or initial communities, and we organize and coach those communities around these three things. So when I meet up with a leader, they're going to pick one of the three that they feel they're the weakest in.

[00:14:40]: But as we sit down, that's not a point of shame, that's a point of growth. It's growth for them, and it's growth for their community. They are trying to be a good shepherd and recognize rational, relational, missional gospel communities, these are all intervals to the Christian life. Which one do we need to grow in this month or in this season? And so that's one way to kind of help at a structural level, to help the church keep all three in view. That I need to be growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord, as Peter says, "Grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ." Rational. Relational, we need to love one another, just as I have loved you. Jesus is the pattern, and is the power for community. And then missional, just as the Father has sent me, now I send you. These are all biblical gospel kind of things, and so we want to be about that if we're Christians. So that's one practical way that frankly, that helps me.

[00:15:41]: I'm a part of a group, I'm coaching the leader of this group, and one of the areas that we're struggling with, coming out of COVID, is really doing mercy and justice things in mission and probably evangelism to an extent. So I'm talking to him about hey, how can we begin to better love our neighbors as ourselves? Can we have a conversation about that this week? And then you pull the family together, they'll come together and say, okay, guys, here's one of the areas we're kind of weak right now. It might be an opportunity for repentance or it just might be an opportunity for growth, but either way, it's good news. Jesus gets the glory in our repentance and Jesus gets the glory in our growth. So how can we love our neighbors?

[00:16:25]: So that's a practical way to keep these three aspects present and kind of firing in your Christian life. But it is, again, so important that relationships and community or mission justice, evangelism not be seen as the King of the three. Jesus is Lord, community, and master, not Lord. We were talking about community and mission making really bad masters. When you succeed in evangelism, you're feeling good. When you don't, you feel awful about yourself. Well that's probably a sign that mission has become your master or your center. So we want to make that distinction clear always that Jesus is King, but because He's King, we're part of a new community and we're a part of a Kingdom that's expanding.

[00:17:17] Darryl Dash: In the book, I think you say something like sometimes we focus too much on discipleship and not enough on Jesus. I'm paraphrasing you there. I really thought that was profound. Am I quoting you somewhat accurately there?

[00:17:28] Jonathan Dodson: I think so yeah.

[00:17:30] Darryl Dash: In the same way, somebody I think said that sometimes our struggle in prayers is because we're focusing too much on prayer and not enough on God, so that's very profound. The goal is Jesus, and these things are ways of getting at Jesus.

[00:17:45] Jonathan Dodson: Yeah, getting at Jesus. And as we're talking, there's a complexity in depth to Jesus. Is Jesus the answer? Yes. But the question we want to be asking is how is He the answer? Who is He? Is He an eternal advocate? Is He a sacrificial savior? Is He a weeping Messiah? Which for me, coming out of the end of last year was profoundly encouraging. We've all been through a lot in the last two years. And for your Christology to be thick, for it to not just fill in the blank Jesus, but man, you could fill in a lot of blanks because of the depth of Jesus. And Jesus is described as a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief in Isaiah 53. I mean if anybody could seal themselves off from grief, it could have been the Son of God, or in the garden of Gethsemane, He prays and He was sorrowful unto death. I mean I've been sad, but sorrowful unto death says it twice. And if a listener is dealing with suffering or those that were leading the Jews, this is a wonderful fill in the blank Jesus to come back to a suffering, weeping Messiah. And after the last couple of years, I had a kind of emotional snap.

[00:19:08]: I didn't have the energy for ministry. I was walking towards my church building, I just felt a decoupling from the church. The thought of being in a room with Christians was harrowing, and so I told my elders, and they just gave me two months off. And during that time, I just spent time with a weeping Jesus. And I was met so profoundly and deeply and then covered a richness to Christ in His human sufferings that was so hard, but so sweet and would never replace it. So again, Jesus is the answer, the gospel is the answer. But the privilege that we have is to lead people into which gospel or to which aspect of Jesus. And that's the joy of discipleship, is peeling back those layers and then discovering that as we've been talking about the unsearchable riches of Christ.

[00:20:01] Darryl Dash: What they have appreciated in your writing is I think there's a healthy level of — I don't even know the word — transparency I guess. You could posture yourself as an expert, maybe, but you're not writing from that position, you're writing as somebody who's studied and who's pretty honest about their struggles and that. That's one thing that's consistently drawn me to your writing, and so I really appreciate that.

[00:20:29] Jonathan Dodson: Well thank you brother. Yeah, I don't want people to be drawn to me, I do want them to be drawn to Christ. And so I think it is helpful to let down the guard, to disciple people through my repentance as well

as my obedience, so that Christ is praised, not Jonathan. So I'm glad to hear that's rubbing off and coming through.

[00:20:53] Darryl Dash: Yeah, absolutely. I want to ask you a little bit about your context. I'm a church planter, and you planted the church where you pastor. And I remember one of your earlier books, I think it was *The Unbelievable Gospel*. And I remember, if that's the correct book, you talked about sometimes just feeling like you were doing everything that you could, and the results weren't always as quick as you would have wanted. Could you talk about just how, in the middle of planting a church and in the difficulties of ministry, you have stayed close to Jesus in all of those?

[00:21:35] Jonathan Dodson: Well, it's true. I can remember when I first started planting City Life Church here in Austin, Texas, and I would go to church planting conferences, the first question I would hear is how many are you running? And I was always frustrated by that, but I also was tempted by it. I wanted to talk about deeper things, but I also at the time wanted to say well I'm running more than I am. And that question for people means how many people are attending on a Sunday. It's numbers, not really souls that are behind that question. So I've tried to not let the metrics, the success qualifications drive my ministry or my faith. But man, it's hard because that's a lot of what people talk about: how big your church is, how influential you are, how many books you've sold, and how many listeners are on your podcast. I mean, we're so saturated with numerical success in America, and unfortunately, that's everywhere in the church and the Reformed gospel-centered camp is not immune to that.

[00:22:42]: So my flesh and my pride want to say yeah, here are the numbers, and so it's a battle. I guess one of the ways that I've tried to go upstream on that is to be very honest with elders in my life and friends in my life about it. When that might be a particular temptation this season, it might be when I'm doing more speaking that I might compare myself to someone else that's doing more speaking. I see an email come across and just confessing hey, I saw that person on the email, I thought they should have invited me. If they're going to invite him, why didn't they invite me? Like just confessing that successful approach to ministry and repenting of it and saying what I want is more of Christ, not more attenders or more listeners.

So I think just the bread and butter confession, repentance in community has been really helpful for me. I think also confessing my sins to my congregation, they seem to really like that. I always get comments often when I tell a story of my failure. And I think that has made me very human to my congregation and therefore approachable. But it also has elevated Christ way beyond the stature of Jonathan Dodson.

[00:24:07]: And so I think that it's not a performance, it's authentic and that's important. But to be transparent in my own conversations and in my preaching, that has, I think, helped fight the kind of success syndrome that permeates ministry. So there are a couple of ways, but the thing that's non-negotiable is waking up every day and crying out to God. I pray the Lord's Prayer every day. I pray lead me not into temptation but deliver me from evil. And when I pray that, I go through the sins of the season, the temptations of the season, Lord, deliver me from control. I don't want to control my home for cleanliness to try and find peace, I want to submit to your control and find peace in you. Lord deliver me from false guilt, to not evaluate how I've performed as a pastor based on a negative voice that says you should have done more, but to evaluate it based on the finished work of Christ and the presence of Christ in my life.

[00:25:16]: So I think that daily prayer of asking for deliverance from those evil temptations. And then, of course, he says "Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory." I mean you've got all the power and glory to answer that prayer. And that's a place to put my faith for power and deliverance from pride and numbers and success. So the little small prayers at the beginning of the day and throughout the day are just ladders of grace, just let down from heaven so I can climb out the pit of pride and just get closer to Jesus.

[00:25:51] Darryl Dash: Man, I've got three or four questions I wanted to ask you, and I'm going to abbreviate them for the sake of time. But I appreciate as you're speaking, Jonathan, you're speaking not just as an author, but as a pastor. And I wanted to ask you, if you were to speak to another pastor who wants to build a culture of discipleship within the church, how would you come alongside that pastor and just encourage him? "Here are a few things you can do to really build a culture of gospel-centered discipleship in the church." What are two or three things you would say to encourage him?

[00:26:25] Jonathan Dodson: Well I'd say way to go. This was Jesus' mission of making disciples, and so don't give up and keep at it.

Practically, I would ask them to keep in mind that discipleship is often friendship-based. So we pick our friends, but we don't pick our community. What I mean by that is that in community you need a diversity of people that you might not normally pick to hang out with because this is the church. You're loving one another, and the gifts and personality differences and all of that are so important for our collective maturity and the display of the gospel working among diverse people. But there's also a place for a depth of relationship. You go quickly, you have a close friend, so you don't pick your community, God picks your community by joining a Church, becoming a member there, or

committing to a group. But you do pick your friends, and it's important, I think, for pastors to recognize that often discipleship is very friendship-like. There has to be some level of trust and affinity between the mentor and the mentee or the peer disciples. There has to be some kind of connection there where people are willing to let down their guard, and confess their sins. I mean, these are deep matters when you really get into them.

[00:27:47]: So one of the questions I get asked a lot from churches is hey, I read the book, how can we implement these groups? We want to get 50 groups launched in the fall, tell me the plan. And I just have to pull back and just say would you like someone telling you who you can be friends with? Because a lot of people have systems thinking instead of relational thinking. And when it comes to discipleship, a lot of that is relational. And if you want to trust, you've got to have a relational framework.

I think another category is spiritual friendship. How do we encourage spiritual friendship in the church, which is maybe a fresh language for people that have baggage for discipleship? So way to go, but remember discipleship is often friendship and creating environments for that. So men's retreats, women's retreats, if you have groups, don't let them just do Bible study or just do prayer, plan social outings. And then in those social outings, people begin to connect, and then there's potential for discipleship.

[00:28:51]: But if we're all just doing programmatic things, then it's going to be hard for you. You're going to get the people that like programs or if you're doing theology things, you're going to get the people to take the classes. But discipleship is a full-throated thing, like you talked about [rational, relational and missional]. So if you don't have other environments for this to happen, then you'll get like a Bobble-head Jesus or a Bobble-head disciple, like really big heads of theology. But they're atrophied in their body, they don't know how to relate to people or ask good questions. They're terrible at conversation, they can't get to the heart, and they're not good at pastoring one another. So we don't want a Bobble-head Christian, we want a full body, as Paul says in Ephesians, going to a full stature of Christ. You want the community and the mission. And I'm kind of rambling now, but this will be a few things that I would say.

[00:29:51] Darryl Dash: And obviously read the book because the book gives so many good handles and ways to move forward. So yeah, thank you for making the book both theological and so practical at the same time, really appreciate that.

[00:30:05] Jonathan Dodson: Well, that's a privilege, and I did add a whole chapter on how to do it.

[00:30:10] Darryl Dash: Yeah, probably born out of the experience of questions you've been asked over the past ten years, I'm sure.

[00:30:15] Jonathan Dodson: Yeah, exactly.

[00:30:16] Darryl Dash: Let me ask just two more personal questions I like to ask them at the end of every interview I do. What's encouraging you lately?

[00:30:26] Jonathan Dodson: Well, honestly, one thing that has been very encouraging to me, I've been reading Kierkegaard's *The Purity of Heart Is to Will One Thing*. And in this book, he's asking the Christian, he's asking the reader to make your life goal to have a pure heart that wills the eternal or wills God or wills to worship and love God. It's like oh man, that's it, give me a pure heart to walk in God's ways and to glorify Christ.

And he has this comment in this book where he says "The wise man is not one who reads many books but who prays." And we might be quick to nod our head oh yeah, piety prayer. But what he says is the reason that the wise man is not the one who reads books, but praise is because it is in prayer that we uncover things about ourselves that we wouldn't uncover otherwise. That before the face of God, in confession and in communion, the Holy Spirit takes us by the hand and shows us new vistas on Christ's glory that might take us to a little Valley to show us some of our sins. He takes us to places we wouldn't choose to go or even know to go. It's that mystical place of prayer.

[00:31:46]: That's where Kierkegaard says wisdom is born, it's before the face of God. And that has made me want to pray more, and it's made me want to linger in prayer more. I'm a book guy, so like hey, easy on the books, okay? I like books, but I want to be equally a prayer guy. I want to be wise not for the sake of wisdom, but for the sake of uncovering more of the unsearchable riches of Christ in order to pass on to my children and to my church and my friends. So yeah, this is my second time reading *The Purity of Heart Is to Will One Thing* by Kierkegaard and really enjoying it this time.

[00:32:32] Darryl Dash: Man, I haven't read that, so I'm going to look that up for sure. It sounds like it's worth reading.

[00:32:37] Jonathan Dodson: Oh, it's great.

[00:32:38] Darryl Dash: And maybe you've answered this already, but what are you learning lately? It sounds like that might be one thing that you've been learning lately, just learning some of the lessons from that, like Kierkegaard.

[00:32:48] Jonathan Dodson: Certainly I feel like being taken by the hand and drawing me deeper into an authentic prayer with the Lord. Related I think, one of the things I'm learning, and I would probably say enjoying is freedom and ministry like I've never experienced. And what I mean by that is my failures don't stick to me like they used to, and my successes don't stick to me like they used to. I feel so free. It doesn't mean that I don't have a tempting thought to think too much of myself after preaching or too little of myself or whatever. But really, I'm experiencing so much joy and contentment in Christ, and part of that is resolving to not allow the successes and failures to define me. And the practical way that works out is at the end of the week, I've worked a full week, often my temptation is to look back and say did I do enough to earn a movie night? Did I do enough to earn a hike? It's as though I'm working for the rest. But I think the Lord has been really sweet to kind of strip me of that. Not perfectly, but to strip away some of that and recognize there is no earning in your ministry.

[00:34:11]: Your ministry is really one of resting deeply in what I think of you. And therefore when you blow it, it's okay, and when you succeed, enjoy it, but don't cherish it. I need to think more about it, but I'm really enjoying that and I don't want it to go away. I just read my journal this morning, it's like the past four months, entry after entry I see that is characterizing ministry for me. And I see the entries where it's a struggle. Today I was tempted by this, but I want to keep fighting to rest because this side of the new creation is going to be a fight to rest, so there's no Zen zone. But I am enjoying freedom in Christ and freedom and ministry.

[00:35:01] Darryl Dash: Wow, well that's so encouraging. That's a good note to end on. Man, I am so grateful for you, your writing has blessed my life and I've heard you on podcasts and meeting you. I didn't get enough time to talk, but I hope that in the future I would just love to hang out with you. But I'm still grateful for your ministry and for all that you're doing and for being with us today. Jonathan, where can people find out more about you and your writing?

[00:35:30] Jonathan Dodson: Well, Darryl, thanks for having me on, for your kind words, and for taking the time to ask questions. Also as a pastor and a writer, I appreciate your heart for really helping people grow in Christ. So thank you for your ministry, thank you for your writing, and the podcast. It's been a joy to chat with you today. Yeah, I've got a Jonathandodson.org.com website. I'm not on social media right now, but I'll be back on it. I have a Twitter and an Instagram, @Jonathan_Dodson. And there's a new book coming out at the end of July,

early August, maybe we could reconnect and keep talking about some of the themes of pastoral ministry and it's called [The Unwavering Pastor](#). Maybe we could chat about that and continue the conversation later.

[00:36:19] Darryl Dash: I've got that pre-ordered already, I can't wait. That's good stuff. Well, thank you so much, good to talk to you today.

[00:36:26] Jonathan Dodson: Yeah, good to talk to you.

[00:36:28] Darryl Dash: Hey, thanks for listening to the Gospel for Life podcast. If you're interested in growing and helping others grow, please check out our monthly newsletter, go to gospelforlife.com/newsletter. And please don't forget to leave a review of this podcast on your favorite podcast platform.