

ONE HIT WONDERS

Philemon

- Have you ever had those moments, where you step back and are like, “Man, it really is a small world.”
- They are some of the coolest moments where you randomly run into people that you have connections with from way back. Im not talking about small town moments, I see that around here all the time, but I’m talking about SMALL WORLD moments.
- Like a while back, I’m in a movie theatre in Columbus, GA and I run into my best friend from 7th grade, when we lived in Mannheim, Germany! Thats a small world moment!
- One of the craziest small world moments I have had was when I was working at a physical therapy clinic in Shelby, NC, this was probably 8 or 9 years ago.

- And one day I had a patient there who was an older gentleman in his 80’s and we got to talking and he talked about how heavily involved he was in the Gospel Quartet scene in the south.
- And I said, Oh that’s cool, my grandfather was in that scene too, but he was down in Jacksonville, FL. He asked who my grandfather was, and I told him, Dewey Bellamy, and he said, “Ohhh yea, I knew Dewey, and began to share stories about my grandfather.
- Now I never knew my grandfather, he died long before I was even born, but here I am with a guy in Shelby, NC telling my about my grandfather. It sent chills throughout my body!
 - You never know the effect that these small world moments can have
- This letter that Paul writes to Philemon is full of small world moments...
- It goes back to Acts 19, Paul was ministering in Ephesus:

- ***“And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus.” -Acts 19:8-9 (ESV)***
- Now, the Hall of Tyrannus, in english translated, Hall of the Tyrant
 - This was a secular venue, it was a type of a philosophy school, much like our public universities today
 - And Paul would go there and engage in open debate.
 - So Paul’s ministry there, could have looked like this **(PICTURE)**
- And verse 10 says, ***“This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard***

the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.” -Acts 19:10 (ESV)

- One of those who heard the word during one of those gatherings was a businessman from Colossae named Philemon.
 - Philemon was radically changed by the Gospel that he heard, and he eventually hosted the church in Colossae in his own home
 - Philemon was a very generous man.
 - He himself was not a preacher or teacher but he wanted to use every resource at his disposal for the Kingdom of God
- Paul himself never got to visit Philemon’s church, because after his two years in Ephesus, he made his way down to Jerusalem where he was arrested and sent off to Rome
- However, he had heard of the church in Colossae, and at one point during his imprisonment, he decides to write this church a letter just to say, *“Hey! We’re thankful for you!”*

We're praying for you! We hear about how well you are loving people." He gives them some doctrine, instruction, and encouragement

- Now, all of the Christians in the area would have flocked to the church that day when they heard that the Apostle Paul had sent them a letter
 - Philemon, who hosts the church, is sitting with the crowd as they listen to the written teaching of the apostle Paul, soaking in every word
- At the end of the letter he says, ***"Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here."*** - ***Colossians 4:7-9 (ESV)***

- This is when an awkward silence falls on the room
- Philemon's like, "What?? Onesimus??"
 - He gets confused, and he scans the room, and he sees him.
 - And oh, he remembers Onesimus
- Onesimus had been one of Philemon's servants
- Some translations refer to him as Philemon's bondservant, or even his slave
 - Now slavery back then wasn't the quite the same as the slavery we would think of
 - Slavery, at that time, had nothing to do with race or ethnicity, but it was so engrained into the culture of the world that no one would have batted an eye at the idea of owning another human being
- Only the Jewish people, because of God's law, were the only people on the planet that were forbidden to view other people as property.

- *Leviticus 25 strongly reminds the people that all human beings belong to God, not to other people*
- *In Exodus 21, the law states that if you buy a Hebrew servant, they are only allowed to serve you for 6 years, and then you have to let them go free*
- *And later on in the chapter, we see God clearly setting the boundary on slavery when He says, "Whoever steals a man and sells him... shall be put to death." (Exodus 21:16)*
- *God has set strong parameters around His Law for human rights, but the rest of the world hadn't caught up to His standards in this regard.*
- Because, at this time 1/3rd of the Roman population would have been slaves numbering about 60 million
 - Some were stolen into slavery, some were born into slavery, but also many of them were slaves or bondservants by choice
 - Some owed debts and decided to sell themselves into slave labor to pay them off
 - Many liked the security that came with living in a masters home
 - Some wanted the educational benefits of learning a specific trade from a master
- Therefore the most accurate term for Onesimus' condition was bondservant
 - He more than likely found himself in a financial bind and needed a way to live securely and pay off his debts
 - Now, he had heard that Philemon was generous guy, so he should probably be one of the easier guys to work for
- So he sets up an interview and offers his services as a bondservant to work for Philemon at his estate
- Now, of course the exact way that all of this plays out is somewhat conjecture, but from what we know about the time and culture, and from what we are told in Scripture, I believe we

can paint a pretty close picture to the way this all went down.

- Onesimus begins working as a bondservant at Philemon's house, where they hold their church services.
- It's strange to Onesimus because these Christians are always gathering together on a regular basis and its like they have no idea how social order is supposed to work!
 - They're not demeaning the slaves
 - They welcome in orphans and people off the street
 - They are constantly giving money away
- Onesimus isn't impressed by this, he's sickened by it
 - These people are just bringing in trash from off the streets, and constantly giving money, throwing it away like it means nothing!
- After being there a while, he finally decides, "*I can't take this anymore! If Philemon's money*

doesn't mean anything to him, I'll just take a bunch of it off his hands and get outa here"

- So he devises a plan
 - The security isn't really high, so its actually rather easy
 - He gathers a bunch of money and valuable items when no one is looking and he takes off to Rome
- Rome is a heavily populated area with a lot going on where he could easily blend into a crowd a start a new life
 - Not to mention it was over 1100 miles from Colossae
 - The problem however, is that the long journey costs a lot of money
- Google maps put Colossae to Rome at a 30hr drive
 - They didn't have cars
 - Its a 210hr walk

- Maybe he was able to catch a boat, or rent an animal, but that would have been even more expensive
- Before long, the money he stole runs out.
 - And he's broke in a city where he doesn't know anybody or have anywhere to go
- He remembers that the Christian community would take in broke and helpless people all the time back home, maybe they would be the same here
- So he finds a Christian community within the city... they're not hard to find because they're not like anyone else, (they stick out like a sore thumb)
- He finds them, and just as he suspected, they fed him and gave him a place to sleep.
 - So he just kinda hangs around because he doesn't really have anywhere to go
 - But one day, they all tell him that they are going to head up to the compound to see Paul
- Paul? He recognizes the name, the Christians back home used to talk about this Apostle Paul all the time
 - His interest is peaked and he goes with them.
- They get to this compound, where Paul is being held.
 - Paul is a prisoner, but he is not being treated as a common prisoner
 - He was, at all times, chained to a roman guard or two... but he was allowed to live under a sort of house arrest.
- We see in acts 28, while his trial was ongoing, even though they placed him under this house arrest, people were still allowed to come hear him preach under the confines of that specific area.
- ***“And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved...He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to***

him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.” -Acts 28:24-31 (Condensed)

- It was at some point within these two years that Onesimus made his way to one of these gatherings
 - Just like Philemon had done at the Hall of Tyrannus
 - While there, he listened to the Apostle Paul speak about Jesus and the Kingdom of God... and the way that he had seen the Christians live started to make sense to him
 - He started to get overwhelmed by his sense of guilt and shame and knew that he needed to be saved
 - He needed a hope, he needed a purpose, and by listening to the word of God he knew that he needed Jesus
- So after the crowd has dispersed he made his way back to Paul to talk to him directly

- He told Paul his situation and what he had been thinking and feeling
- He and Paul formed a relationship and Paul led Onesimus to Christ
 - Onesimus began to help and assist Paul in whatever he needed
 - He would hit the streets inviting people to the next time that Paul would speak
 - He would find people to pray for and talk about Jesus with
- He began to live the life he thought was so ignorant back in Colossae
 - But Paul could sense he still had something hanging over him...
- One day Onesimus goes to Paul and Paul tells him, “Onesimus, it’s time.”
 - “*Uh, time for what*”
 - “You got to go back”
 - “*Back? Back where?*”
 - “To Colossae”

- “Haha, yaaaa right, good one Paul”
 -
- “Wait, are you serious? Do you know what they do to run a way slaves? They’ll brand my forehead, they’ll beat me, and most likely crucify me.”
 - “Maybe, but you wronged the man, you stole from him, and you need to make it right.”
 - “But I don’t have anything to pay him back with...”
- “Don’t worry about the money, if he wants money, I’ll pay him what he’s owed, but you need to go back face him, ask his forgiveness, and offer your services as a slave once again to make things right.
- If you don’t, you’ll have this hanging over your head for the rest of your life. Not only will you have to live with the fact that you hurt and wronged a brother in Christ and never did anything to make it right, but you will always be looking over your shoulder for the rest of your life,”

- YOU CANNOT LIVE IN THE FREEDOM OF CHRIST WHILE LIVING IN FEAR OF YOUR PAST

- Onesimus knows that Paul is right, he’s always right...
 - “Can’t we just like write a letter?”
 - “Oh I wrote a letter, but you’re gonna deliver it. You and Tychicus are going to go down to Colossae and give a letter that I’ve written to the church, but I also have one that I’ve written to Philemon personally.”
- Now Onesimus has to make the longest journey of his life, back to the place that he came from, to face what he had done
- His stomach was in knots the entire time, his mind is on a rollercoaster throughout the whole trip
 - One moment he’s thinking: *“Paul is right, its gonna be ok, this is the right thing....*

- The Next Moment: “HOW COULD PAUL BE SO CALM ABOUT THIS! THEY’RE GOING TO KILL ME!”
- But then he settles himself...*“it’s ok, I’m doing the right thing, Lord, give me strength”*
- But the panic comes back....*“THIS IS GOING TO BE A DISASTER”*
- Eventually, Onesimus arrives in Colossae with Tychicus and they get word to the Christians that Paul has written them a letter
- So they all gather in Philemon’s house, the letter is read, Philemon hears the name Onesimus mentioned, and now all eyes are on Onesimus.
 - If I’m Philemon I’m thinking, *“What in the....that little THEIF....He’s LUCKY I’m in church right now!!”*
- There has to be a flood of emotions going through him at this moment and while he is staring at Onesimus, he’s thinking, *“I was so good to him and he stole from me, took my*

wife’s jewelry, and left me, after all I did for him...”

- As all of these things are going through Philemon’s head, he hears someone say, *“This one is addressed to you.”*
 - “What? To me? From Paul?”
- *“Yea, its says your name directly so I figured you would want to look at it first.”*
- **LETTER**
- Philemon reads this letter, looks back and forth between Onesimus and the letter
- *He can’t believe what’s happening right now*
- Now its not like Paul gives Philemon any room to say no here
 - He starts it like a grandparent laying on a guilt trip
 - “I’m an old man” —> Grandma, “I don’t know how much longer Im gonna be around”
- But nevertheless, he asks for a favor

- This is the ONLY time in all of Paul's letters that we see him asking for a favor
- And he's not really even asking for himself! He's asking for Onesimus
 - This is completely countercultural for anyone who was not brought up as a Hebrews
- Bondservants had no rights, no status
 - *They were by definition "A living tool"*
 - They were pieces of property that had the ability to breath
 - But Paul wants him not to just accept him as a servant...but as a brother!
- He's told to receive him as he would receive the Apostle Paul himself if he were to come visit!
- Now, everyone in town knows who Onesimus is and what he did, and everyone expects him to face the punishment that he deserves
- The other servant masters need Onesimus to be punished or their servants might get the idea to run off and steal themselves!
- Philemon is put in a tough spot, but Paul is acting like this is just common sense
 - And Paul sets it up to not really give him a choice
- *"Hey Philemon, while you are living you're comfortable, cozy life, I'm just over here, an old man in prison. While here, in these chains, I led Onesimus to Christ. Now he has been serving faithfully in the ministry and I could use his help here with me, but you can take him back if you want. Don't forget, that I was the one who led YOU to Christ so without me you would be on your way to Hell. But nevertheless, if you can find it in your heart to do me this one favor, cool. And don't worry about all of his debts, I'll pay them back myself. But it's up to you. One more thing, go ahead and prepare a guest room for me because I'm planning on making a trip to you soon. Love, Paul."*

- Philemon can't really say no here!
- If he does, everyone will know he went against the most famous and influential Christian leader in the world, and it would get REAAAALLLY awkward when Paul comes for a visit.
- But Paul is adamant about this because he has been trying to get people to understand throughout his entire ministry
- THAT EVERYONE IS EQUAL AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS
- ***“Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.” -1 Corinthians 12:13 (NLT)***
 - Your platform does not determine your position in Christ.
- ***“There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. -Galatians 3:28 (NLT)***
- Your race, your social class, your gender does not determine who you are in Christ!
- There is only one color that matters, and it's the crimson blood of Jesus that was poured out for ALL! This blood makes us ONE and gives us NEW LIFE
- And Paul says in the letter to Philemon's church, that:
 - ***“In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and He lives in all of us.” -Colossians 3:11 (NLT)***
- Now when the church would have read that, no doubt he got some head nods and amens
 - But then he is going to put Philemon and the whole church in a spot where they *have* to live it out
 - Because that's what the Gospel does

- THE GOSPEL ALWAYS PRESENTS OPPORTUNITIES FOR OBEDIENCE

- Everyone knew the story, they knew who Onesimus was and what he did. No doubt bounty hunters from the community would have looked for him after he ran away
 - It was the talk of the town for a few days
- So now, not only Philemon, but the whole church is supposed to accept Onesimus as a brother?
 - Because you know, this letter wasn't just addressed to Philemon
- ***"To Philemon our beloved fellow worker and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:" -Philemon 1-2 (ESV)***
 - This was a personal letter but it wasn't private
- And the point is not to put Philemon on the spot, but to hold the entire church accountable for living out Gospel obedience
 - When we repent before God, He will then lead us to repair relationships with others.
 - Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5 that we do not view people according to the flesh...their mistakes, their past, their struggles
- ***"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;" -2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)***
- What Paul is saying is, we all have had our Onesimus moments ...and we all will have our Philemon moments as well
 - In our Philemon moments, God will put each and everyone one of us in a situation where He wants us to reconcile with people who don't deserve it

- This is the ministry of reconciliation: “To reestablish a relationship with”
- We don’t get to pick and choose
- We all will be hurt, people will let us down, but the only way that they will keep us down is if we allow bitterness to consume our lives
- This is why God gives us opportunities to reconcile, or forgive
- *Forgiveness, releases us from bitterness, and opens us up to receive a blessing*
- Paul doesn’t just want grace to be shown to Onesimus, he wants Philemon to be released from bitterness
- Paul does this in such a masterful way, because he wants them to reconcile the past and move on
- And Paul is suggesting in a backdoor manner, that Philemon forgive Onesimus and then send him back to Rome
- Why? Because Paul knows that Forgiveness is immediate, but Trust takes time
- If Onesimus were to stay in the house as a servant again, Philemon, who may very well have forgiven him, would still struggle with trusting him.
- Would still have to look over his shoulder and be on guard with him because of what happened before
- Paul is giving Philemon a way to forgive the debt and not have to be faced with the past every day
- You can forgive a person and not be around them
- It’s possible to forgive from a distance
 - Some people are destructive or abusive
- You may need to forgive those people in order to release your heart from bitterness, but that doesn’t mean that you bring those people around again in your every day life

- You can release that situation to God and pray that they find Hope in Jesus but you don't need those influences in your life anymore
- However, God puts Philemon in a situation where the issue is right in front of his face and in front of the public eye
 - And Paul wants Philemon to be able to be an example of radical forgiveness in that community and give Onesimus the best opportunity to be an example of radical transformation through the Gospel
- God will put us in Philemon moments, but we'll have Onesimus moments too
 - Eugene Peterson paraphrases Galatians 6:1 in The Message when he says:
 - ***"If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day's out."* -Galatians 6:1 (MSG)**
- If we cannot learn to forgive people, who will ever forgive us?
 - *What you want other people to be for you, you first have to be for other people*
 - You should strive to be the most forgiving person that you know
 - We all will get hurt by people...but we also all will hurt people ourselves
- We need grace just as much as anyone else does
- That's why Jesus said in Matthew 5 ***"So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God."* -Matthew 5:23-24 (ESV)**
- Notice Jesus didn't say "if YOU have wronged someone".... He said if they have something against you.

- You may feel like you did nothing wrong, but that isn't what matters to Jesus
- He wants us to value the relationship more than being "right"
- Now you may be thinking, "I'm not the one that needs forgiveness I was the one that was wronged! I don't see them coming to try and be reconciled with me!"
 - You know Jesus didn't wait for you to come to Him
- ***"...While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" -Romans 5:8 (ESV)***
 - He initiated the forgiveness
- Now, Onesimus definitely did not deserve to be forgiven or be used for ministry
- He was guilty, he committed the crime, he deserved whatever punishment would come his way
 - BUT SO DID WE!
 - WE ALL ARE ONESIMUS!
- We all, by creation, belonged to God
 - And in our sin and our selfishness, and in our attempt to be our own God we ROBBED Him of his possession and ROBBED Him of His Glory in our lives
 - The debt against us was too much for us to ever cover or pay back
- And while we were running, there was a Man waiting to meet us where we were
 - He wore the chains that we deserved, and he offered up Himself to make the payment that we couldn't afford
 - He told the Father, *"if there is anything that they owe, put it on Me, Charge it to My account"*
- And through His blood, He paid the price that it took to cover the penalty of sin, and reconcile our relationship with our Father
 - We have been forgiven so we can live in relationship with Almighty God

- And here's the final point for today. Very simply:

- **FORGIVEN PEOPLE, FORGIVE PEOPLE**

- *The most forgiving people around, are those who haven't gotten over being saved*
- We are to "Forgive one another, as God in Christ Jesus has forgave you"
 - "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you"
 - "Love one another, Just as Christ has loved you"
 - This love, starts with forgiveness because even Jesus said, whoever has been forgiven much loves much, who has been forgiven little loves little...
- We can't afford to allow things that have no eternal value keep damaging our relationships and keep us from repairing relationships
- Paul tells Philemon, "*Money? Is money what would hold you back? If money is the issue I'll*

pay it myself...why? Money holds no eternal value itself

- *But Paul encourages him to look at this from an eternal point of view...*
- *What if...what if, just maybe...this happened so that he would get saved. What if he went away for a little while so that he would come back to you as a brother, forever??*
 - *What is worth more? The missing money, or a mans SOUL??*
 - *What if he made these mistakes, so that he would run off to Rome, encounter Jesus?*
- *What if he would never understand Jesus working in your home, but he would at rock-bottom in Rome?*
 - *What if you are in the position now that you could show such radical forgiveness that leads an entire community to see Jesus more clearly?*

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- To see Jesus, Who forgives us even when we don't deserve it, Who was willing to forgive us even before we ever asked for it
 - *You are never more like God than when you forgive*
- By forgiving you release yourself from bitterness and you receive a blessing
- The blessing can come in many shapes and sizes
 - Not to mention being released from bitterness is an incredible blessing in itself
 - But also, one of the greatest blessings you can ever have is to have the opportunity to bless someone else
- I remember hearing one of my pastors, Jeremy Peeler, state "The two most powerful words in evangelism are, "I'm Sorry."
 - The opportunity for evangelism all began with Jesus on the Cross saying, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."
- The pursuit of making amends, gives you the opportunity for the Gospel to be shown through you and to someone else.
- And you never know how much your forgiveness will bless the person you forgive...or how life changing it can be to seek forgiveness for yourself
- Some 50 years after Paul wrote this letter to Philemon, A great Christian leader named Ignatius wrote a letter to the church in Ephesus, and he writes ***"In God's name, therefore, I received your large congregation in the person of Onesimus, your bishop in this world, a man whose love is beyond words. My prayer is that you should love him in the spirit of Jesus Christ and all be like him. Blessed is He who let you have such a bishop. You deserved it."***
-Ignatius to the Ephesians
- It very well may be that the same runaway slave who stole from His master, ended up becoming the Bishop of the Church in Ephesus

and lived such a fruitful life that the leading Christian influencers of the day encouraged people to be more like him

- ONLY GOD, can pull something off like that
- No matter how much you've done or how far you run,
- No matter where you've been or what you've been through,
- God, who works all things out together for good can bring your story full circle and advance His Kingdom through you in ways that you could never imagine!
 - All we need to do is be obedient, and do everything we can to live a life that looks more like Him
 - You'll never look more like God than when you forgive
- SOME NEED TO SEEK FORGIVENESS, SOME NEED TO RECEIVE FORGIVENESS

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- He takes the letter and begins to read...***I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers,***
 - Paul....is thankful....for me??
- ***because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints,***
 - Paul...he hears about my love and faith??
- ***and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.***
 - Paul is praying for me?? Paul gets joy and comfort from me??
 - Buttering him up...what do you want?
- ***Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. ... I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this perhaps is why he was parted***

from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner,

- Paul sees me....as a partner??
- ***receive him as you would receive me. If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you...(the boys say hey) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.***
- Philemon reads this letter, looks back and forth between Onesimus and the letter
- ***He can't believe what's happening right now***
- Now its not like Paul gives Philemon any room to say no here

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Have you ever had those moments, where you step back and are like, “Man, it really is a small world.” They are some of the coolest moments where you randomly run into people that you have connections with from way back. Im not talking about small town moments, I see that around here all the time, but I’m talking about SMALL WORLD moments. Like a few years back, I’m in a movie theatre in Columbus, GA and I run into my best friend from 7th grade, when we lived in Mannheim, Germany! Thats a small world moment. On the flip side of that, I am back in Germany this past Christmas, and my Dad’s chaplain assistant is from Lincolnton, NC and knows Jeremy Peeler. How does that happen?? One of the craziest small world moments I have had was when I was working a physical therapy clinic in town, and I have a patient there who knew my grandfather from Jacksonville, FL. Now I never knew my grandfather, he died long before I was born, but here I am with a guy in Shelby, NC telling my about my grandfather. One last one, again, I’m working at the physical therapy clinic and I meet a young coach who is in the clinic with one of her players. We get to talking and realize that we are from the same area of Pennsylvania and know a lot of the same people. We become friends, and a few years later we start a community group with one of our other friends. And those two friends got married May 24th of this year! Now, am I taking credit for this marriage? No, all Glory goes to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...but Heath, you’re welcome.