

FINDING THE LOVE OF JESUS & LOVING HIM BACK

Discipleship Essential: Knowing God

Series: Finding the Love of Jesus and Loving Him Back

Study 1: On the Mountain

Finding the Love of Jesus and Loving Him Back: On the Mountain
(through success, provision and victory)

Introduction

Choosing intimacy with Jesus in seasons of blessing can often be more challenging than in times of heartache. When life is difficult, we often recognise our need for Him. But when life is full of provision, success or answered prayer, we can slowly become self-sufficient without even realising it. This study explores how we can continue pursuing Jesus – not simply for what He gives us, but because He Himself is our greatest treasure.

Read 2 Samuel 7: 18-22

Then King David went in and sat before the Lord, and he said:

“Who am I, Sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? And as if this were not enough in your sight, Sovereign Lord, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant—and this decree, Sovereign Lord, is for a mere human!

“What more can David say to you? For you know your servant, Sovereign Lord. For the sake of your word and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made it known to your servant.

“How great you are, Sovereign Lord! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears.”

King David was a great example of someone who loved and pursued God not only during troubled times, but through times of great victory. Throughout the book of Samuel, David’s love for God is rooted in relationship. He continually recognized God’s love, goodness and sovereignty.

In 2 Samuel 7 18:22, David was responding to a promise from God that He would establish a house and kingdom for David that would endure forever. David’s first response was to sit before the Lord and say, ‘who am I?’ He knew that God’s blessing was undeserved favour and sat with Him in a place of unhurried intimacy and humility.

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DISCUSS: What does David's posture tell us about his relationship with God?

David shows us that choosing God in times of blessing means remaining humble in His presence and choosing intimacy even when he doesn't need anything. He recognises that everything he has flows from God's grace and teaches us that God desires a closeness with us, even on the mountain.

DISCUSS: How does humility shape the way David speaks to God?

DIGGING DEEPER: David teaches us that mountain seasons can become a sacred place if our intimacy with God remains our highest priority. But this intimacy can also be overshadowed by our achievements, expectations, self-sufficiency and need for control. We may need to lay these things down and release any distractions that compete with our pursuit of God's heart. What are some of the things that might prevent or distract you from seeking God in these seasons?

APPLICATION: Psalm 27:4 says, "One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in his temple." This Psalm is believed to be written by David during a season of success and great leadership. He seeks closeness with God even when he has peace, stability and provision. What does intimacy with God look like when you are not asking Him for anything?

PRAY: Take time to pray and give thanks for the opportunity to know God on the mountain. Ask God to reveal His desire to be close to you in these seasons.