

The Action of Devotion

Mark 1:8-13; 29-39 ESV *Please remember discipleship – they were to follow Him by being with Him and then doing what He did. This is not just information about Jesus, it's a lifestyle He modeled for them. "Learn of Me for I am meek and humble of heart... My yoke is easy and My burden is light." *The importance of the wilderness is Friday night in a message called "The Song in the Night."

- I. The action is entering not earning.
 - a. He is the beloved, favored Son.
 - i. This is My beloved Son in whom I'm well-pleased! How can He be when He hasn't done anything productive yet. *No preaching, teaching, healing or demons cast out – the Father is pleased because of the relationship.
 - ii. Jesus explains His freedom to us. John 8:35-36 NIV "Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." *A slave is only in the house for his performance – the Son is beloved and favored just because He's in the family.
 - b. He has open access because of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Heaven has been torn open and the Spirit's given in a way that He hadn't been before. The Father's voice isn't just above Him, it's now in Him through the communion of the Holy Spirit. He says He only does what He sees the Father doing – John 5:19 NIV "Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does..." He's not operating as the Son of God but as a Son of man - this is through access to heaven by the Spirit of God. *He is modeling the need for our baptism of the Holy Spirit which is coming John says.
 - c. His devotion to us leads to us being able to enter instead of earn the Presence of God. Mark 10:45 NIV "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." *The gospel or good news is the length God has gone to so we could have a relationship with Him.
 - d. We enter in by the identity He gives us.
 - i. He gives us His relationship with the Father – this is how the Son sets us free. Romans 8:15 NIV "The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.^[a] And by him we cry, "Abba,^[b] Father."" *Not slaves or orphans – sons of God who are given intimacy as a gift. *Pray this way – "our Father", "My Name... the Father Himself loves you."
 - ii. Prayer Tuesday morning - The birthday cake – not a reward for good behavior, a celebration of who you are just because you are

loved and delighted in. *1st birthday – no, they’ve kept us constantly tired. 2nd – know they’ve been terrible this year, let’s wait until they’re teenagers; no, it might lead to them feeling even more entitled... if birthdays were a reward for good behavior you may never have one, yet this is often how we think of God.

- iii. Amazed: “You dance over me, while I am unaware You sing all around But I never hear the sound Lord, I’m amazed by You Lord, I’m amazed by You Lord, I’m amazed by You How You love me; How wide, how deep How great is Your love for me How wide, how deep How great is Your love for me.”
- e. We enter His Presence because of His devotion to us.
 - i. “He gave His life as a ransom for many.” He served us by dying for us. We can now be forgiven, adopted, and live in the very Presence of God.
 - ii. Schizo – Mark 1:10 and Mark 15:38 – our prayers don’t open heaven, His blood did. Heaven is now open for believers unless we don’t believe it is open and return to performance.
 - iii. The floodgates of heaven are open, let it rain. We aren’t overcoming God’s reluctance, we’re laying hold of His willingness.

II. The action must be chosen.

- a. Early He departed and found a place where He could be alone with His Father. He’s left many, to be with One. This is deliberate – it is an action that He chose.
 - i. How did He get up so early? Don’t read Mark 1:35 without remembering Mark 4:38a NIV “Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion.” *Jesus took naps! He didn’t suffer from FOMO and He didn’t check His phone 100 times a day – He could sleep any time.
 - ii. He invites us to the secret place. Matthew 6:6 NIV “But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” *Not only do I nap, I have a cup of coffee. “All I need today is a little bit of coffee and a whole lot of Jesus.”
- b. Us drawing near is an action.
 - i. Hebrews 10:19-22a NIV “Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near...” Drawing near is our part and it doesn’t happen without a choice.
 - ii. Luke 10:40-42 NASB “But Martha was distracted with ^[a]all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do the serving ^[b]by myself? Then

tell her to help me.” But the Lord answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴² but *only* one thing is necessary; for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.” *You don’t have to make a choice to be Martha. You’ll never have a devotional life if you wait until you have time for one.

- c. The good part. Delighting in God Himself, just for who He is. *Mark Virkler “What you’re doing right now is the consummation of why I made you.” *My prayer walks each morning.

III. The action has a cost.

- a. The disciples and the crowds will be disappointed.
 - i. Searched, hunted – they’re energized about what Jesus should do next. They have a definite agenda for Him that is actually different than God’s for Him. They will not understand.
 - ii. The crowds – legitimate needs of people who God loves. Won’t it be confusing if I don’t go minister to them? What will they think about God if I don’t come back?
 - iii. “Only what the Son sees the Father doing.”
- b. Bearing with Martha’s disappointment.
 - i. The day I was working on this – Romans 2:29 NLT “No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by the Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise^[a] from God, not from people.” *We choose everyone else or the audience of one.
 - ii. Some of my inspiration to only obey what the Father is saying in a world with desperate needs. She did what she could. I’m not everybody and I can’t do everything, but I’m somebody and I can do something. Do small things with great devotion.

IV. The action has a promise.

- a. There’s healing under the table. 2Cor. 3:18 NASB “But we all, with unveiled faces, looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”
 - i. David’s table is a beautiful type – Shane shared last year, but there’s a difference – while we pursue intimacy with God there’s healing under the table.
 - ii. A woman this week – don’t be preoccupied with your healing or your freedom – choose intimacy with God every day. When it’s about what’s wrong, you’ve moved away from the table.

- iii. Every meal won't be memorable – I'm still glad I ate them or my body would be weak. 1Cor. 13:12 "Now we see in a mirror dimly..."
- b. Jesus will always bring you back to it. My life doesn't work without this.
*My intentionality in every new place I am – the highlight will always be intimacy, not leisure or ministry. (the cruise, India, the DR, Phoenix)
Desire, discipline, and delight. Once delight hits you'll stop noticing the discipline.