

GOD WITH US

His People. His Dwelling Place.

Loving God is our Greatest Mission - Ps Marno Jansen

In *John 21:15-18*, we see Jesus ask this question to Peter: 'Do you love me?' **How would you respond to this question?** Take a moment to think about it or even write it down.

After Peter's response, Jesus says 'Feed my sheep.' Before Jesus gave Peter the mission, there was first **intimacy**. Peter loved Jesus before he received the mission to go and do things for Jesus. Peter thought the things he did for Jesus showed his love, but Jesus was more interested in his heart's intention. What was your response to the question 'do you love me?' It's not about listing all you do for him. **Our ministry to him should never take a backseat to ministering to people.**

The woman who poured the alabaster jar onto the feet of Jesus understood this (*John 12:3*). *Matthew 7 verses 21-23* emphasizes the importance of knowing God intimately and not just doing things for him.

The Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20):

1. We all have a mission - to go and disciple the nations.
2. 'Teach them to obey everything **I have commanded you**' - if we don't sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to him, how can we disciple others?
3. 'Surely **I am with you always**' - it's a mission with him and not for him.

There is relationship before the mission. Intimacy before the instruction. The mission is important, and we are all called to disciple others and spread the gospel, but first we are called to **intimacy with him.**

The Great Commandment (Mark 12:28-34)

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

How do we respond to the question: what are you about as Victory Church? Is it to list all the things we do as a church? The best response we could ever give is that **we are lovers of Jesus**. We minister to Him before we minister to people, because He is the most important thing.

1. **He is God.** This is the first thing we have to settle before we can enter into a place of love, adoration and worship. (Ps 86:8-10)
2. **He is mine.** 'The Lord **your** God'. He gave himself to us wholly and completely. (Ps 63:1-3)
3. **I am His.** Before anything I do, I belong to God. I give Him my heart before I give him my hand.

Our call to love people and our call to love God are equal in importance but not order. We are **called to love God first**, and to love people out of that place of intimacy.

Reflection:

1. Close your eyes for a moment and just focus on Him. Say Lord you are the only God. How would you begin to describe who He is? Speak out who He is in every way you can describe him. Write down who you have experienced God to be to you.

2. What does the call to love God look like practically in your life? What are some steps you can take?