

# SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 30.03.25

**PREACHER: PS GARY LEVENS**

SEEKING INTIMACY WITH GOD

## BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

*BEING [HEART], THINKING [MIND] & DOING [BODY]*

*[A PERSONAL REFLECTION]*

**Conviction of a Disciple:** As we seek His face and hunger after His presence, we become consumed and desperate for more of God, with souls that won't be satisfied by anything other than His love.

## OVERVIEW

As Jesus' disciples, we are called to live lives that reflect the nature of Jesus. In a similar way to how we become more like the friends we surround ourselves with, we become more like Jesus as we prioritise His presence and seek Him wholeheartedly.

## ACTION

**Step 1:** Reflect: Jesus tells us that He is the only one who satisfies us. What satisfies your heart and makes you feel fulfilled? Take a moment to be honest with yourself.

**Step 2:** Commit: Jesus tells us that He is the only one who satisfies us. What satisfies your heart and makes you feel fulfilled? Take a moment to be honest with yourself.

**Step 3:** Act: This week, set aside a time to simply seek His face and prioritise being in His presence. Could you find a time to do this regularly?

# THOUGHT

**SCRIPTURE:** LUKE 15:11-32 ; NUMBERS 8

“Dad, I just want you.”

It’s the innate cry of a child. More important than any gift a parent could ever give their child is simply their presence.

Yet, we often come before God like a child writing a (very extensive) Christmas list. We need healing. We need provision. We need help. The list goes on. And while we know that we can bring everything to the Father in persistent prayer, first and foremost, we are called to seek His face before we seek the work of His hands.

We know God cares about our physical needs. If God cares for the rest of His creation with so much thought, detail, and abundance, how much more must He care for His children (Matthew 6). But, like the good Father that He is, God wants to give us the most valuable gift that He can: the intimacy of His presence. When we seek His Kingdom first and prioritise our relationship with Him, He promises to take care of the rest.

Consider Moses—a living, breathing example of God’s sovereign goodness. Moses was a busy man, responsible for leading the Israelites toward the Promised Land. He dealt with all their complaints and disputes and tackled the logistical nightmare of shepherding a nation of 600,000 men through desolate deserts and enemy territories. Despite this, Moses made time every evening to go into the Tent of Meeting. The presence of God would fall like a cloud, and he simply spent time with the Lord. He brought no lists or agendas, although he would’ve had plenty of things to ask for. He just wanted to BE with God, and the Lord spoke to Moses face-to-face like a friend (Exodus 33). Moses’ secret was that he sought the face of God above all else, filled with the deep desire to know the Lord intimately. (And the Israelites never went without having their physical needs met, just as God promises us today.)

God longs for us to choose relationship with Him, and the reality is that our human nature thirsts for that kind of intimacy too. It’s a longing that nothing else in the world can ever satisfy. But there has to be a shift; a shift in our stature, in our hearts, and in our gaze. We have to fix our eyes on Jesus and gaze at His face with wide-open eyes. We have to become desperate for God so we can draw aside to simply seek Him.

A healthy relationship leaves nothing hidden, embracing vulnerability that fosters deep intimacy. We must open our whole heart to God, reserving nothing so that we may place it all in His hands. As we search for the Lord and seek His presence, He strengthens us (Psalm 105:4). He invites us to be with Him. He says, “Come and talk with Me” (Psalm 27) and the response He delights to hear from our hearts is as a little child who whispers, “Dad, I just want you”.

We can dissect the Word, the Lord, and theology all that we want, studying and learning. But in focusing all our attention on those things, we can miss the radiance of His fullness and the beauty of His face. More than knowing about Him, we need to KNOW Him.

*How do we begin to truly know the Lord?*

It starts with hunger and desire. The more you eat, the more your appetite builds. Your soul is the same. Make sure you don't just have a snack on Sunday. Eat a midweek banquet, too, so that your hunger for the presence of God grows. Then, add these to your plate:

- COMMITMENT/TIME
- CONSISTENCY
- PERSISTENCY
- WHOLE-HEARTEDNESS
- SACRIFICE

As we seek His face, we are changed into His likeness (2 Cor 3:18). All our needs are met. Like little children, we simply begin to want Him because nothing on our lists can satisfy us like the presence of a Father can.

## DISCUSSION

*[A GROUP REFLECTION]*

1. Why do you think it can be so hard for us to simply sit in His presence? What might distract us from focusing on His face, and how could we lay those things down?
2. How would you describe your relationship with God? As a group, discuss how you could improve the health of your spiritual relationships.
3. Are you eating full spiritual meals every week? How can you keep each other accountable to increase your hunger?
4. Consider the 5 things (above) that we need to implement in our spiritual diets if we want to truly know the Lord. Which one(s) of these is the most challenging for you? How can you grow in this area?

## PRAYER

Father,

We come before you as Your beloved children. Thank you that you long for an intimate relationship with us. No matter how many times we mess up or sin against you, your grace is sufficient, and you welcome us home with open arms when we ask for forgiveness. Teach us to seek Your face wholeheartedly and to love Your presence. Increase our hunger for more of You so that nothing else might satisfy us. We just want you, Lord.

Amen.