

Bible Study one

When the music fades...

This is the first of six part bible study on worship using the first verse of Matt Redman's Song "When the Music fades."

When the music fades all is stripped away

It is quite easy to be passionately singing to God on a Sunday, your with your worshipping community, you're focused and ready to give everything to God..... then comes Monday morning!

With this first study I want to look at "The unseen" that secret place we are welcomed into.

I'm gonna dive straight in with a confronting question:

How is your quiet life with God? (Do you spend time with God alone?)

Do you find it easy to spend time alone with God? If not why not?

I think the secret place is one of the most overlooked / underestimated parts of our Christian life, and I think one of the No.1 suspects for this happening is "business."

Read Luke 10:38-42

Are you more like Mary or Martha?

In this mad world where everything is designed to do more in less time its easy for this to subconsciously model our christian lives.

Do you find yourself thinking, i would love to spend more time with God but I'm just too busy? I often try and use this as an excuse but if I'm honest i never seem too busy to watch Match of the day or top gear! Its all about our priorities - What matters most to us?

I love L. Giglios statement in the book "the air i breathe" where he says that "every heart has a throne room"

What you invest the most effort, time, money and loyalty to is what will be what is sat on the throne of your heart.

When you look back at the past week - who or what has been the king of your heart?

It scares me that a lot of the time if I'm honest God has not sat there.

As Christians we would all probably agree that it's important to spend time with God but why don't we always do it!? Are we another generation of people who "honour God with their lips but their hearts are far from Him?"

We need to crown Christ king of our lives not just our Sunday mornings / evenings or cell group. This doesn't mean we cant enjoy other things but we need to guard the worship of our hearts.

So coming back to the secret place, Jesus is the one we should look to to model our lives, lets see how he did it. Jesus didn't just pray in public...

Luke 5:16 says, "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." - even when people came to listen and to be healed he still went to pray, that's how important it was to him (v15)

Luke 6:12 says, "One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God." - the whole night!!

There are many many more examples of this. (if time why not flick through the gospels and have a look)

Jesus calls us to do the same to pray in the secret place - **Read Matthew 6:6**

So Jesus prayed in public, all alone, all night and in private and calls us to the same. Prayer seems to have been His anchor. Was He legalistic about his prayer life...or simply communing with His Father? - I think the latter!

And I wonder...if Jesus found it necessary to pray, how can we hope to live without it? If Christ found it necessary to have His life shaped and strengthened through quiet times of intimacy with the Father, how much more should we?

Jesus said "I can only do what the father is doing" how did he find out what the father was doing, he spent time with him! Its not rocket science we all know these things but we need to do them!

The more time we spend with our father in heaven the more we are going to be like him, reflect him, get to know his character and His will for us and we will catch His heart for His people and His world.

Do we want that?

If we do lets do something about it starting from today. What I have started doing is booking time with God in my diary - seems a bit strange especially when someone asks if you want to hang out and you say no i've got an appointment with God!

But even if you a busy person - carve out space even 5-10mins a day to simply bring yourself before God, read his word and get to know Him 1-2-1.

Why not follow this principle or make your own, I always remember my primary school teacher saying this before we crossed a road, i find it helpful for prayer

Stop – Carve out time to be with God alone, ask your Father to speak to you with the help of His Spirit. Because of Jesus we have direct access!

Look – Get in God's word, use bible notes if helpful or start by reading the gospels again. Be asking God what do you want to say to me or others through this.

Listen – Be still, listen

Go – Now go apply what you have heard, be do-ers not just hearers of Gods word.

Lets not just Role-Play this, lets get involved and live it out.

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