

Practicing the Way – Week 2 – Being With Jesus through Spiritual Formation

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly.

- Matthew 4:18 “Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
- Being an apprentice of Jesus is to organize your life around three driving goals:
 - o Be with Jesus
 - o Become like Him
 - o Do as He did

2 Corinthians 3:5-6 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, 6who also made us adequate *as* servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2 Corinthians 3:15-18 But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; 16 but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

1. Through spiritual formation, we come to know God and ourselves.

2 Corinthians 3:15-16 But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; 16 but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

Exodus 33:13-15 “Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You, so that I may find favor in Your sight. Consider too, that this nation is Your people.”¹⁴ And He said, “My presence shall go *with you*, and I will give you rest.”¹⁵ Then he said to Him, “If Your presence does not go *with us*, do not lead us up from here.”

- John Ortberg once wrote, “It’s like Moses said, ‘I’d rather live in the wilderness with You than in the Promised Land without You.’”

2. Spiritual formation happens in God’s presence.

2 Corinthians 3:16-17 Whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty.

- Being a disciple of Jesus and spiritual formation is first and foremost about a relationship with Jesus.
- John 14:16-18 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

3. Spiritual formation is a transformational process.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

- God's not just reforming us; He's transforming us.

- For transformation to happen, we've got to sit with Jesus and contemplate the glory of the Lord.
- Exodus 33:18-19 Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!" 19 And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion.
- Exodus 34:5-7 The LORD descended in the cloud and stood there with him as he called upon the name of the LORD. 6 Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; 7 who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

4. **Spiritual formation allows us to reflect God's glory.**

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord...

Further Thought:

1. Do you want God to form your life?
2. Are you willing to develop the discipline of sitting & living in God's presence?
3. How might the right kind of spiritual formation change how you think about meditation? As a Christian, how can you meditate on God's Word? What role does prayer play in experiencing God's presence?
4. How would your actions change if your life reflected God's glory?