

YOU

Sermon Series: Spiritual Disciplines: Becoming More Like Jesus

To be used with: Knowing God

Sermon Title Possibilities: Knowing God Personally

Scripture: Psalm 37:3-9

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the small group study *“Spiritual Disciplines: Becoming More Like Jesus,”* this sermon reveals that God invites us to know Him personally and not from a distance. Furthermore, as we pursue this relationship, God responds to our desire to know Him more.

Introduction: Have you ever met someone famous? It might have been an athlete, a movie star or a famous musician. You could have bumped into them at the airport or restaurant and couldn’t help but go introduce yourself. Yes, you had technically met them. But you don’t know them. We will see that God wants us to do more than meet Him, but to fully know Him. As we come to know Him, we will see that He actively responds to our pursuit of Him.

1. Knowing God in personal delight (v. 4)

The psalmist outlined three commands that one would be wise to follow in an effort to personally know God. Each imperative is then followed by a response that God has to this act of obedience. The first command is to “delight in the Lord.” Delight, in the original language, means to refresh oneself in or to take personal pleasure within someone. The psalmist says that our delight is to be “in the Lord.” Our flesh would say that our pleasure and refreshment can be found in a variety of things. The Bible, however, calls us to delight in the Lord.

When we are faithful to this command, God will give us the desires of our heart. This is written as a statement of fact and it is not possible for God to tell a lie (Titus 1:2). This does not mean that He will give us the new car that we are convinced we need. It can mean that He will change our hearts to be better in tune with His will and therefore help us to know and follow Him even more.

2. Knowing God in trusting Him (v. 3 & 5)

The second command is to trust in the Lord. To trust means to have confidence within someone or something. We are trusting people. We trusted that the car would start when we turned the key. We trusted that the chair would hold us up when we sit on it. The Lord is calling us to put our trust and confidence in Him and this trust is developed as we grow our relationship with Him and discover how trustworthy He is.

His response to us trusting Him is to act on our behalf. We may not always see His

action in the moment, but we have to trust that He is there. The reason we know this to be true is because the end of verse 5 says that “He will act.” His actions might be delivering us from a difficult situation. His actions can also be providing the needed grace to endure the same difficult situation.

3. Knowing God in patient expectation (v. 7)

The CSB says that we are to “wait expectantly.” The command is to wait. We are also told how to wait; expectantly. To wait expectantly means to have hope and to not be discouraged. Generally speaking, most people do not do too good with waiting. We grow impatient with the microwave and heaven help us if we get behind someone actually going the speed limit down the road. Yet, God clearly commands us to wait and to do so with great expectation.

The psalmist told us why we can wait with expectation in verse 9. He said, “Those who put their hope in the Lord will inherit the land.” The inheritance for those who personally know the Lord is more than a few acres of the family property. Those who put their hope in the Lord will share in the inheritance that Christ provided through the shedding of His blood for us. This promised land is the glory of heaven itself.

Conclusion: The Christian hymn writer Edward Mote penned over 100 hymns in his lifetime. His most famous one was written in 1834. The first verse says this:

*My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' name*

To know God is to personally delight in Him, no matter the circumstance. To know God is to trust in the sweet name of His Son Jesus. To know God is to wait in great expectation for the return of His Son. Many of us recognize the words to this song like we might recognize a famous person we ran into at a restaurant or in the airport. The real question is, do we personally know the One the song is about?

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