

The Passionate Disciple Part 2 - 'Going Deeper into the Disciplines for Ordinary Disciples'

Questions

The Practice of Secrecy

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1. Reflect on how you have been blessed anonymously in the past. What happened, how did you feel? What was the impact on you?

Share with your group

Have a time to thank God for these people and pray a blessing on them

2. Share one key thing that God spoke to you out of this sermon.

3. Henri Nouwen makes this statement:

'At issue here is this question: "To whom do I belong? To God or to the world?" Many of my daily preoccupations suggest that I belong more to the world than to God. A little criticism makes me angry, and a little rejection makes me depressed. A little praise raises my spirits, and a little success excites me...Often I am like a small boat on the ocean, completely at the mercy of the waves.'

How does that apply to your life? Share as you wish.

4. What are some of the signs that you and others may be struggling with 'approval addiction'?

What does 1 Corinthians 4:3-5 and Galatians 1:10 say about this?

5. What areas of your performance are you most tempted to use as a measure of your worth and what are you doing to fight this tendency? What else will help you in this?

6. Read Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

7. In this passage what is Jesus trying to teach us about secrecy in our faith?

Share personally any things that God has taught you through practicing secrecy?

8. What do we lose as soon as we begin to announce or flaunt our acts of service and our spiritual accomplishments?

What are some of the rewards and blessings when we are able to maintain secrecy in our acts of service?

9. **ACTION** Who are some struggling, marginalized, lonely people in our church or in your world? What are some specific, practical ways you (personally and as a group) can secretly bless them. List them down then plan when to action.

10. What has God revealed about Himself through this sermon and study?