

QTC533. Learning to Practice His Presence. 22

August 2024

Quiet Time Coaching Episode 533 | Learning to Practice His Presence | A New Creation
Part 24 | Malcolm Cox

Introduction

A new creation! I'm Malcolm Cox. Welcome to this series on 'A new creation'.

The premise of this series is that God is loving us into spiritual character growth. Jesus is the inspiration for that spiritual character. We are being transformed into his likeness.

2 Corinthians 3.18

“And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.”

How does this happen? A key aspect is following Jesus and living as a disciple. Following Jesus changes us, and those changes help us follow him. Today, we wrap up the series with some thoughts on learning to practice the presence of Jesus.

Experiment with rhythms and practices

Try some of the ideas we have explored in this series. Imitate Jesus' times of solitude and his rhythms of work, fellowship and prayer. Notice what works for you. What makes you more aware of his presence? Do more of that. Pay close attention to what is happening inside you - a relationship is interactive.

Study Jesus

'Stalk him' as one person put it, and put yourself into the stories in the gospels. Take your time. Go slow.

Talk to Jesus

Walking with him, engage him in constant conversation. Remember that prayer is a conversation more than an event. Talk things over with Jesus as they occur in your day. Remember to praise him often.

Speak to Friends who 'get' this

Notice the people who God has put into your life and learn from them what an interactive relationship with Jesus looks like. 'Interview' them.

Conclusion

We are most formed by what we most love.

"Nothing is more practical than finding God, than falling in love in a quite absolute final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, whom you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in Love, stay in love, and it will decide everything." Pedro Arrupe, Jesuit.

Decide who to love if you want to change and grow

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

What does walking in the presence of Jesus mean to you? How do you know when this is happening and when it is not? What is one thing you can do today to develop more of an awareness of the presence of Jesus?

Conclusion

As we conclude this series, take some time to truly revel in this promise:

2 Corinthians 3.18

“And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.”

Next time, we start a series based on my new favourite Psalm, Psalm 139.

Your brother, Malcolm

Please add your comments on this week's topic. We learn best when we learn in community.

Do you have a question about teaching the Bible? Is it theological, technical, or practical? Could you send me your questions or suggestions? Here's the email: malcolm@malcolmcox.org.

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