

TITLE: DON'T LOSE SITE OF WHAT'S RIGHT.

Those who are in a covenant relationship with God understand that He desires our love.

Ex. 20:2-6 teaches us that He alone not only deserves our affection but that He also loves us.

- **'[Adoration is] the lifting of the heart and mind to God, asking nothing but to enjoy God's presence' – The Book of Common Prayer**

Adoration is the most appropriate way to begin prayer. Adoration is an attitude, a frame of reference, or a posture we have when spending time with God. It's both *what* we give to God and *how* we present ourselves to Him that shows 'we recognize Him above all else'. Where God is not only the focus of our attention, but where we are also willing to give up our time in order that His will be known. Unfortunately, very few people are willing to 'pay the price' in terms of time and commitment.

- Ex. What do you notice when you meet a successful business executive, a talented musician, or a competitive athlete?
- Answer: Namely, someone who is incredibly passionate about one thing, and is willing to sacrifice a little pleasure today for some greater result in the very near future.

For the person who wants to pray according to God's design, we cannot miss the way we observe the Son of God teaching His disciples how to pray.

BEGIN

In **Luke 11:1-2**, we see how prayer ought to begin. With us honoring, respecting, adoring, and/or appreciating the greatness and majesty of God. In other words, our prayers should be more about God and His desires. Look at how the Son of God begins His prayer: 'Our Father... Hallowed be Your name' ---- (Pause!).

From reading **Deut. 10:12** we learn that God desires this [reverence, worship] of his people.

In **Psalms 95:6**, we are invited to 'Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker... And, in **Mat.6:33** we are instructed to 'seek first the Kingdom of God...' Yet, sadly, we often begin with our needs and desires. Or we merely fail to take time out from our busy lives to sit in His presence and offer Him any love or appreciation.

Luke 10:38-42 reveals the way we ought to live our lives, fully present to God and to others.

- **WELCOME HIM:** Does He set the course for your day? You might have the agenda, or the list of items you want to do for the day, but do you let God determine the priorities?
 1. Tune into the fullness of God Himself and direct your whole being to Him. Make a personal commitment to having fellowship with Him and surrendering to His Will.
- **SIT WITH HIM:** From the very beginning of this story we see Mary taking her place aside Jesus. Where's Martha and what is she doing? Can anyone relate with this???
 1. Concentrate on your relationship with the Lord and your love for Him.

- **ADORE HIM:** To truly appreciate something is to take time out from something else. What do you need to set aside so that you can fully appreciate God?
 1. Set your eyes upon the Lord. Shut out everything else ---- and simply reflect upon your relationship with God and His presence in your life.
- **LISTEN AND LEARN FROM HIM:** Be teachable. Be curious. Be alert. Remember, research proves that we should not multi-task.
 1. Allow God to reveal even more of Himself to you.

END

In the story above, we simply see Jesus modeling for us what relational discipleship should look like; in other words, we see the importance of you and I (i.e., leaders, mentors, coaches, etc.) spending time with the people we are discipling outside the formal church or classroom setting. And for disciples to learn, it is helpful for us to know what type/level of listening is being used. <http://jimputman.com/2019/02/05/which-of-these-4-levels-of-intentional-listening-do-you-use-most-often/>

1. **Listen without focus** – the listener might be present physically, but they generally don't hear the content as they are more focused on something else.
2. **Listen for the 'gist'** – often seen when someone is in a hurry; when the listener is mostly focused on their own internal dialogue and how what is being said pertains to them.
3. **Listen to respond** – listener is more eager to add something of their own like a story, an argument, or opinion to the conversation, than they want to understand the other.
4. **Listen to hear** – happens when the listener is more interested in the other person than on themselves. Here, the listener wants to better understand the other person's perspective. We might see this when a person leans in, makes eye contact and gives encouragement to the other person to show that they are being heard.
5. **Listen to understand** – This type of listening is showing genuine love and care for the other person. This happens when a listener is looking at more than just the words of another person but is also considering the tone and body language of the other person, and whether there might be any hidden emotions or issues behind the words.

- **Do you recognize where God is at work in your life?**
- **Can you see the good within your situation, knowing that it's not because of you?**
- **What is your position to God? Are you open or ready to have Him lead you?**
- **Are you giving God the attention He deserves and desires from you?**
- **What changes can you make right now to begin listening to God more intentionally?**
- **Give up something today, so that you can have more time with God. Make worshiping Him a greater priority.**
- **To do this, begin praying from a place of gratitude. Recognize the good in your life. And know and trust that what God sees and wants is what we too must see and want.**