

Session 3 The Necessity of and Way to Delight in God’s Beauty

I. REVIEW

- A. ***The beauty narrative***: embraces the truth about a beautiful God who has a beautiful plan for our life, one in which He uses His power to impart incorruptible beauty into our life that continues forever (Rom. 8:28). David was intentional to focus on the “beauty narrative” of his life (27:4).
- B. ***The dark narrative***: The enemy wants to shift our life into a negative narrative of how bad we are treated, how hard things are, what we do not have, how much we fail, and how worthless our life is. We must refuse to let a dark narrative dominate our heart and internal conversation.

II. THE NECESSARY OF THE BEAUTY OF JESUS

- A. Delighting in the beauty of Jesus is essential to walking in victory—especially in this hour when fear, lust, offense, and violence are increasing. David wrote Psalm 27 in a time of conflict (v. 1-6).
²When the wicked came against me...³Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear...⁴One thing I have desired...to behold the beauty of the Lord. (Ps. 27:2-4)
1. *When the wicked came against me*—No, not just one man, but an army surrounded David. Wicked men came with a large group of people working with them to destroy David. Armies surrounded David, seeking to destroy his life, reputation, possessions, and position.
 2. For example, during Absalom’s revolt, an army of men in David’s kingdom sought to malign him throughout the nation, kill him, and take his throne, money, family, etc.
- B. God’s beautiful plan is to impart His incorruptible beauty in us; therefore, our life is not worthless. Our life matters—it is not wasted no matter what some may say. Maybe we are not unusually gifted, or do not have favor with people, or we are not noticed by others and are not making a big impact on others, but we set our heart to grow in humility. When I am convinced that God is beautiful and that He longs to impart it to people, then I can begin to believe that He might impart it to me.
- C. Isaiah prophesied that the Spirit would emphasize Jesus’ beauty (33:17) in the generation of His return. Isaiah highlighted that God’s people will find stability and strength in a time of difficulty by delighting in the King’s beauty and embracing His “beauty narrative” for their life (33:6).
⁶...knowledge [God’s beauty] will be the stability of your times, and the strength of salvation...¹⁷Your eyes will see the King in His beauty... (Isa. 33:6, 17)
1. This “beauty narrative” brings strength in a time of escalating lust, fear, and persecution.
 2. God’s people will be strong in love—the first commandment will be first in the body of Christ worldwide. No sacrifice will be seen as too great because they know who He is.

III. THE WAY TO DELIGHT IN GOD'S BEAUTY—3 SIMPLE ACTIVITIES

- A. How can we grow in beholding His beauty and engaging in the “beauty narrative”? Our delight of His beauty grows by *meditating on*, *blessing* (praising), and *declaring* (sharing) it (Ps. 145:5-12).
⁵*I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty [beauty]...⁶I will declare Your greatness...¹⁰And Your saints shall bless You. ¹¹They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom... (Ps. 145:5-11)*
1. Psalm 145 is one of David's most instructive psalms on how to engage with God and to walk in victory over dark emotions of despair, lust, fear, and a feeling of worthlessness.
 2. The process of transformation occurs little by little as we engage in the “beauty narrative.” As we speak simple, inspired thoughts back to God and to others, they grow, like watering a seed. They begin to shift the way we think and feel about ourselves, others, and the future.
 3. Anyone who does these three things will be transformed in their emotions progressively.
- B. **Activity #1 Meditating on God:** Search out and think deeply on who He is and what He has done. Our delight in His beauty grows by meditating on it (Ps. 145:5).
- C. **Activity #2 Blessing God:** To bless God includes speaking what we see back to God with gratitude and affection. Our delight of His beauty grows by blessing or speaking it (Ps. 145:10). We are to speak to God the things we admire about Him. Kingdom principle: when we say the truth about God, the Spirit moves. He will mark our heart because He moves when we say what the Word is. Write down the phrases that inspire you when you speak to God and say them again to God.
- D. **Activity #3 Declaring to others:** As we declare or share what we admire about God to others, our delight in His beauty grows as does the delight of others (Ps. 145:6, 11). As we verbalize what we see of God's beauty, our insight and delight increase. Our heart is realigned to His beauty as we verbalize it in praise to God and share it with others.
- E. *“We delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment. The delight is incomplete until it is expressed.” C. S. Lewis*
- F. We glorify or magnify God when we discern and delight in His beauty by treasuring, enjoying, celebrating, and making much of His name and beauty, by declaring it to others, and by reflecting it in our lives. *“God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.” John Piper*
- G. The Spirit is raising up those who will proclaim the riches of Christ as ‘theologians of His beauty.’
⁸*To me...grace was given, that I preach...the unsearchable riches [beauty] of Christ. (Eph. 3:8)*
- H. Paul saw the value of praying for others to receive greater insight into the God's beauty (Eph. 1:17).
¹⁷*...that...the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸the eyes of your understanding being enlightened.” (Eph. 1:17-18)*