



APPNOTES

Date: October 14-October 18,2019

Series: Chasing Carrots

John 13:1-17 If you knew death would come tomorrow, what would you do tonight? Call your friends over for comfort? Seek last minute relief from impending doom? On the night mentioned in today's scripture, Jesus faced the same scenario: His death on the cross. It had to be a night of excruciating anguish for Him. Yet, verse 3 says Jesus knew who He was, why He had come to earth, and what the future held. He didn't need the praise of His friends for courage and strength to meet death. Instead, Jesus put His pain aside to wash His disciples' feet. True humility and servanthood begins with knowing and believing your true identity in Christ—a child of the King, chosen, forgiven, accepted, loved, and set free from the need for worldly recognition. Live to your identity! Roll up your sleeves and get messy in the world's dirt, like Jesus, helping those around you.

Matthew 6:1-7 Broadway musicals play for thousands of people. The actors strut their talents to wow their audiences. Unlike Broadway, following Christ is not a performance to impress others. Trumpets might blare in NYC to draw the crowd's attention, but trumpeting our acts of kindness before others will not get the applause of heaven. As believers in Jesus we have an audience of ONE, God. He knows our stage tricks. When we do good deeds, He knows we might wonder if others are impressed. So God says, "Let your giving be in secret." Our actions should be focused on His glory, not self-glorification or the admiration of others. We will always have an audience for true compassion: God sees every card you write in the privacy of your kitchen, the cash slipped in an envelope, the casserole delivered to a back door. Your secret acts of love are witnessed, and the applause of heaven resonates through eternity.

Proverbs 27:2 Have you spent time with someone who is excessively preoccupied with themselves? The conversation centers on their plans, their employee-of-the-month award, or their children's accomplishments. Did you manage to get a word in? Such encounters smell of narcissism, self-centered attention. Perhaps, these narcissists are basically insecure, seeking to increase their value in the eyes of other people through self-praise. As followers of Christ, we should recognize that our self-worth comes from a relationship with Him. His grace and faithful love impart intrinsic value and complete worth to our lives. We are free from roaming through our personal relationships in search of kudos and adulation. Instead, we can listen to other people, secure in the

wonder that Christ loves us, died for us, and calls us the apple of His eye. If you want to boast about anything, boast about what Christ did for you on the cross, not about yourself.

James 4:1-3 How do we get into those messy relationship problems that drive wedges between us? Sometimes, we blame another person who offended us or the social complexities that run rampant around us. More often, the root of a relationship struggle is in us, the product of our own self-centered longings. Two sisters argue over the few remaining possessions of their parents. An employee takes credit for an idea even though it originated with the guy in the next cubicle. A husband routinely flirts with other women. A salesman lies about the street-worthiness of a vehicle in order to meet a monthly quota. Wrong desires and rotten motives result in bad choices. We have two choices—do what we want or do what God wants. As believers, we should choose to follow Christ faithfully in every decision of daily life and to ask for His help. This is the path to spiritually healthy lives and relationships.

Micah 6:8 What is required of us as believers in Jesus? “To walk humbly with our God.” Our Christian walk is wrapped up in this statement. But how do we do it? Why not start tonight with a walk under the stars? Consider the vastness of the universe and God’s all-powerful, eternal presence next to your miniscule existence on tiny Earth. Take that perspective into your days, remembering moment by moment your need to depend on the One who controls the universe, knows all, and has authority over everything. Humility blossoms in a God-centered perspective. This view of God will enable us to say “I’m sorry” to Him and to others. It will open our hearts to a spirit of gratefulness for His love and abundant blessings. It will point us to servanthood rather than selfishness. Renew your understanding and appreciation of God and then ... walk humbly with your Creator Redeemer.

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