



APPNOTES

Date: October 21-October 25,2019

Series: Chasing Carrots

Romans 8:35-39 This message is for me. I've lived my life with chains of insecurity holding me back from the amazing things God has in store for me. My god, my ruler, was the approval of others. Never fulfilled, never satisfied, with only fleeting moments of happiness. We have a God-shaped hole in our hearts that can only be filled by our Creator. I love that visual. I want to fill myself with His goodness and all for His glory. But I'm a work in progress for sure. It's scary to let go of the fears of being accepted, loved, and approved. God loves us unconditionally; after all, He created you and me. Just as we chase the approval of others, God is chasing us relentlessly and He won't tire or give up until we're secure in His promises. How beautiful it is that the remedy for our insecurities, no matter how shallow or deep, is believing we're secure in God's love.

Proverbs 29:25 Fear of what others think can trap us in mediocrity and shallowness. This makes me think of the hamster my twelve-year-old recently begged to have. Hamsters need exercise wheels that go around and around and around. The hamster is getting it's exercise, but it's not going anywhere, just around and around and around. When you allow fear of what others think rule your every move, your every thought, you aren't going anywhere either, only around and around and around. You can never fully satisfy everyone, and you most certainly aren't satisfying yourself. You're chasing something that can never ever be obtained and means nothing. Don't let yourself be trapped by this fear! Step off the hamster wheel into faith and walk the path God has set for you. He will be there walking beside you and carrying you. God's approval is all you need, and guess what – you already have it! Seek that rather than the approval of others.

Proverbs 14:27 It took me a bit as a Christian to understand the word "fear" when the Bible said to "fear the Lord". If I fear something, I stay away from it because it's bad and harmful to me. Why would God want us to be afraid of him? I couldn't wrap my brain around it. Until I learned this: Fear means to obey. It refers to a specific sense of respect, awe, and submission to God. We don't need to "be afraid" of God, because we know that God is our Father, and He always loves and forgives us. It is, rather, joyful awareness of God's grandeur and a grateful realization He is where our hearts find true

peace. Let us fear the Lord and chase His glory – that is how we will find the peace we were created to have in Him.

Psalm 91:1-2 Remember making forts as kids? My brother, myself, and the neighborhood kids would make forts in the woods behind our houses. There was something so secure and tranquil about it. We'd each climb a tree and it was ours. Our safe space. Winter was my favorite time in those woods, when the snow, heavy on the branches of the evergreens, created its own fort. I can still remember climbing underneath, feeling almost warm, tucked away from the cold, feeling safe, far away from the worries of the world. Though as a kid, that meant chores, homework, or bedtime. Wouldn't it be great as an adult to escape to one of those forts? Well, let me introduce you to your very own adult fort, your refuge and fortress - God. When we trust in God, He shelters us from it all. When we're scared, ashamed, hurting, or just searching for an escape from the world's pressures, seek it in Him. He is our rest and peace.

Acts 5:27-29 In these passages, the apostles were confronted by the religious establishment. They had to choose between sharing the Gospel or pleasing the religious leaders. Peter and the others replied, "We must obey God rather than human beings!" Is it uncomfortable for you to share your faith with others? Do you fear what others might say? Don't be afraid! Share the good news of the Gospel. Share God's words and promises. Think of where you'd be right now if someone hadn't shared with you the beautiful, unending, unconditional love of God. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ for us – US!! – was so we can know the love of God. It's our astonishing relationship with Christ that will lead us to obey God, rather than human beings. Can you see it ...the beauty in that one promise? I challenge you to surrender one thing to God by obeying His Word and watch what happens in your life because of it.

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