

## Discipleship: How to Face Life-Changing Moments Part 4

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### I. Introduction

What do you see when you look at your life? When something serious happens, what does it make you think and feel? Satan definitely wants you to think something; he wants you to feel something about yourself.....but so does God. To understand God's voice in the moment, you have to see what He sees and learn from it.

### II. Discipleship: *OBSERVE, What is God Doing?*

**How do you live everyday life, isolated or in community?** Nowadays we can do almost everything by ourselves: food, entertainment, work, family (dad may not communicate with mom and vice versa and both may expect teachers or youth pastors to talk to their kids about sex, drugs, bullying, etc.; they'll say things to themselves like, "Kids need their space"). But how were we designed to live everyday life, especially as Christians, as God's representatives to a broken world? We're supposed to live in community with each other: Acts 2:41-47; 4:32-37. *Repent* and *Believe* is how the early church lived, i.e., they looked at their problems together and solved them together. They observed and reflected on their problems and asked, "What is God doing among us?" "What does it mean?" as they sought time with God in order to hear from Him (Acts 4:23-31). Now, you may be thinking, "I live in community, I sit next to my favorite friends every Sunday. I even go to dinner with them once a week," but you never venture beyond those 4-5 friends. Is this what God intended for the ambassadors who're supposed to reconcile a broken world to God (2 Corinthians 5:20)?

**Observe, what is God doing?** When you're trying to discern God's voice during a life-changing moment, you're asking yourself, "What is God doing? What does He think about this situation? How does He see and think about this situation?" You compare your reaction to God's. Jesus learns how to react to life-changing moments by observing the Father's reaction to these critical moments: John 5:1-21—observing His Father, He knew what to do with the 38-year invalid. To hear God's voice we need to think like Him, see what He sees.

*What the disciples see vs. What Jesus sees:* the woman at the well (John 4:8, 27-41): when Jesus looks at a situation, what does He see and say about it? All the disciples saw was important social norms being broken: a lone Jewish rabbi talking with a single, Samaritan woman, likely of ill repute. And since they were hungry, the other thought on their mind: food. Jesus, on the other hand, saw hundreds, perhaps thousands of souls entering the Kingdom because of this single conversation with this troubled Samaritan woman.

*What God sees vs. What we see:* looking at birds and flowers (Matthew 6:25-34): did you ever think that God's voice could be found in a bunch of birds or flowers? If you have eyes to see and ears to hear, you will hear God's voice as you look at birds, "Do you see these little birds eating off the ground? Where does their food, which never ends, come from? Me, I feed them and not just these but every bird in the world, non-stop. Now, tell Me, are you more valuable to Me than a bird? Of course you are! So don't ever worry about your next meal. I've got you covered." ....and flowers, "Now do you see the lilies over there? See how beautiful they look? Guess who dressed them to the nines? I did. If I so clothe grasses and flowers, which are

here one day and gone tomorrow, how much more care do you think I'll take in clothing you? Don't ever worry about the clothes on your back."

**What did Satan say? vs. What did Jesus say?** When trying to discern God's voice, a good place to start is by asking yourself, "What does Satan want me to think about this, how does he want me to feel?" This will help you discover God's voice because what God says is usually the opposite of what Satan says.

**A young man takes a road trip with his girlfriend and a friend**, he decided to go on a 4-hour road trip with his girlfriend and one of her friends; we'll call her Jane. It was one of the most challenging moments of his life. Jane is very self-centered and entitled, so for the next 4 hours she complained about everything and everyone. When he tried to offer Jane advice, she ignored him and kept right on complaining. This made him furious so he checked out by putting his earbuds on and playing video games. He had promised a friend that he would go out with him when he arrived. But Jane is also unorganized and last minute she blurted out, "I have to go register for the event." He was fuming because he only had 45 minutes to get to his friend. The frustration and anger didn't surprise him, but the suicide thoughts did. He thought that he was over this; why was he thinking suicide now? Why would a 4-hour trip with a woman who ignores him and makes him late to an appointment drive him to suicide? The story goes back to his childhood. He grew up with a very difficult and hard-to-please father. Whenever he felt anger or tension from his parents, especially his dad, he'd run away and try to comfort himself. Whenever people ignored what he had to say, it made him feel like he had no value, like a throwaway. Whenever he was late, he felt like a shameful liar; that's what his father taught him: if you're late, you're a dishonorable liar (shame was big in his culture; you're never to bring shame on yourself because it brings shame on your family).

What did Satan want him to see (observe)? Satan wanted him to see that little boy who had no value, who's a throwaway, whose only choice is to run away, to check out. Why the suicide thoughts? Because that's what he learned to do his whole life, to run away from anything negative. He was no stranger to suicide; he tried it before. Satan said, "You see, no one cares about your opinion. Man this chick is annoying? Don't you wanna stop her annoying voice; don't you wanna get the hell out of here? Let's do it; let's leave this miserable life."

What did the Lord want him to see (observe)? He wanted him to see how broken *she* was not how broken he was: "Do you see how lost she is? She's so self-centered; she can't think of anyone else. She needs someone to help her see her brokenness but not in a condemning way, in a healing way. Do you remember the woman I saved, who was caught in adultery [John 8:1-11]? Remember how everyone wanted to kill her, they were yelling and screaming? How did I show her her brokenness? I first saved her life, then I encouraged her to be who she really was, a child of God not an adulteress. That's how I want you to help Jane." And if he fell for Satan's lies about himself, then Jesus would've shown him the truth, like the countless teens he helped when he was a youth group leader, how he showed all those teens that their brokenness was not unique, that it could be healed by the Lord.

### III. Conclusion

*"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"*