

Attending to God

What makes a good disciple? Following Jesus is sometimes tough, so what will give us the strength we need? Jonathan Draper, in his book 'To Love and Serve', suggests it is attention to God.

True disciples of Jesus need solid rock on which to build their faith and their service to others. And that requires attitude – an attitude towards God, knowing when to shut up and really listen to what God is saying.

We disciples walk along our path on life's journey, and we know that our companion Jesus is with us, ready to show us the way, if we keep close to him. When we walk with a friend we normally chat to them, listen to them, and have periods of comfortable silence together, and so it should be with Jesus. The trouble is most of the time we rush forward or even round in circles, engrossed in our busy-ness, and fail to slow down or pause. We might take a moment to turn to our companion but we often use this precious time to talk about others in need, our own troubles, our feelings and all our burdens. We neglect to pause and really listen to the response and what God might want us to understand.

We cannot effectively serve others without this vital listening time with God. Jesus served people, went and prayed alone, then returned refreshed to serve again. So we also need to adopt this pattern of living as disciples. We find God when alone in prayer, through the Scriptures, in the sacraments, through others in worship and conversation, through observing creation. God is always waiting to talk to us, and if we really listen we will stand on that rock with the spiritual strength to serve others, as Jesus has taught us to.

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What the 23rd Psalm is really all about

The Lord is my Shepherd

That's Relationship.

I shall not want

That's Supply.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures

That's Rest.

He leadeth me beside the still waters

That's Refreshment.

He restoreth my soul

That's Healing.

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness

That's Guidance.

For His name sake

That's Purpose.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death

That's Testing.

I will fear no evil

That's Protection.

For Thou art with me

That's Faithfulness.

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me

That's Discipline.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies

That's Hope.

Thou annointest my head with oil

That's Consecration.

My cup runneth over

That's Abundance.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life

That's Blessing.

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord

That's Security.

Forever

That's Eternity!