

Christmas: IT'S COMPLICATED

Small Group Questions: Simple Favor

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Read

Luke 1:26-32, Psalm 84:11, Exodus 33:12-16a, Jeremiah 29:11

Reflect

In Luke 1:26-32, we're told that Mary found favor with God. But throughout the Christmas story, Mary's life is fraught with complicated circumstances and hardship. What does it really mean to find favor with God? How would you define God's favor? Is fairness the same as favor?

This week, Pastor Shawn Wood mentions that we often view God's favor as preferential treatment or getting stuff (favors). But in truth, real favor is the place where we are in God's will, feel God's presence, and are given God's power to accomplish His purpose in our lives.

So, how do you become a favor finder? Pastor Shawn identifies the posture of a favor finder as someone who:

1. Walks uprightly with expectancy.
 - a. What areas of your life do you find it hard to continually hope in God?
 - b. Do you trust that God can handle your problems in the best way? Or do you tend to want to offer Him suggestions?
2. Walks uprightly with an eye to others.
 - a. Can you think of an instance where you were too focused on your own problems to help those around you?
 - b. What are some ways you can serve others this week?
3. Walks uprightly, steady and ready.
 - a. In what ways have you put your faith in your passions and talents rather than in the simple favor of God?
 - b. Do you feel you have God's favor? How has it shaped what you consider to be your purpose in life?
 - c. Do you expect God's purpose to flow from the favor He has already given you?
 - d. What role does the Bible play in making you steady and ready?

We can come up with all kinds of excuses not to be a favor finder. What excuses or untruths are you believing that prevent you from finding the favor of God's power, presence and rest?

Respond

- What do you feel like God is asking you to do in response to the weekend message? What is your next step?
- How can your Small Group support you and hold you accountable in this?